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## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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PHONE 614•241•2555  
FAX 614•241•2557  
E-MAIL [commailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:commailbox@colsdio.org)

# News

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CONTACT: Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.  
ATTENTION: City/Assignment Editor

### **BISHOP ROBERT J. BRENNAN NAMED 8<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP OF BROOKLYN**



COLUMBUS, OHIO – September 29, 2021 – The Vatican announced today that Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus, as the Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York.

The appointment was announced in Washington, D.C., this morning, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Bishop Brennan will be introduced to the Diocese of Brooklyn at a news conference at 10 a.m. at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, Brooklyn. A Mass of Installation for Bishop-Designate Robert Brennan will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 2 p.m. at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph.

“I have been very happy here in Ohio and am heartbroken that I will be leaving,” Bishop Brennan said. “I came to know amazing people here, and there is tremendous sadness leaving you behind. As I prepare to return to New York, I am ready and eager to embrace the people of Brooklyn and Queens as their pastor. Knowing we are loved by Jesus, we will strive to show others his face, bearing the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth. In the end, that’s what it is all about – in Columbus, Brooklyn, and around the world.

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## BISHOP BRENNAN APPOINTED BROOKLYN BISHOP - 22222222

“To the people of the Diocese of Columbus, I recognize this announcement comes as an enormous surprise, but we entrust ourselves to the Lord, and we will move forward confident that the Holy Spirit is the constant guide for the Church and its people, especially when a new bishop will be chosen to lead the Diocese of Columbus. All of you are in my prayers in a very special way today, and you will remain in my prayers and my heart every day of my life. Please pray for me as well. Continue placing your trust in our loving Lord and carry on this marvelous journey of faith that we have been on together these last two and a half years as fellow missionary disciples of our Lord and savior.”

“In the selection of Bishop Robert Brennan, the Holy Father has called upon a native New Yorker to return to lead the faithful of Brooklyn and Queens” said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn. “On behalf of the Diocese of Brooklyn, I welcome Bishop Brennan who I have known for many years, with confidence in his ability to lead our Catholic community and build upon the pastoral achievements we have made. It has truly been an honor to serve as Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn for nearly 18 years.

“This is a historical moment for the Diocese of Brooklyn, which is a very active place, and Bishop Brennan’s energy makes him a perfect choice. I ask for God’s blessings on this transition so that the work of God, in service to His people, can effectively continue for the more than 1.2 million Catholics throughout Brooklyn and Queens,” continued Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio.

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## BISHOP BRENNAN APPOINTED BROOKLYN BISHOP - 33333333

The Vatican will announce a successor to Bishop Brennan at a future date. In the meantime, Bishop Brennan will lead the Diocese of Columbus until November 30. Then the diocesan College of Consultors will elect a diocesan administrator to lead until a new bishop is appointed and installed.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Bishop Robert J. Brennan is the son of Robert and Patricia Brennan. The oldest of five children, Bishop Brennan has two brothers and two sisters, 14 nieces and nephews, and three great-nephews and niece.

He was raised in Lindenhurst, New York, where his parents still reside. Bishop Brennan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and computer science from St. John's University, Queens, New York, and studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, New York.

Bishop John McGann ordained him a priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, on May 27, 1989. He was named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Rockville Centre in 2002. On July 25, 2012, he was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre.

On January 31, 2019, Bishop Brennan was appointed 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Columbus by Pope Francis, and he was installed as Bishop of Columbus March 29, 2019. During his time in Columbus, he has been actively involved in the work of the Catholic community in central and south-central Ohio, including serving on the boards the Catholic Foundation, Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, and Cristo Rey Columbus Catholic High School. He also has been a board member and the Vice Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus.

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## BISHOP BRENNAN APPOINTED BROOKLYN BISHOP - 4444444444

At the national level, Bishop Brennan has served with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a member of the Committee for Catholic Education, the Administrative Committee, and the Priorities and Plans Committee.

Bishop Brennan's greatest strength lies in parish pastoral activity. As the Bishop of Columbus, he travels regularly in order to meet and engage people from every part of the 23 counties of the Diocese of Columbus, learning about their lives, both their everyday activities and their faith commitment. He has also enjoyed learning about the many parishes and schools here; the many facets of the ethnic and geographic cultures of the Diocese; and the vibrancy of the many missionary movements in Columbus, particularly the participation of young people.

The hallmark of Bishop Brennan's time in Columbus has been the initiation of the Diocesan-wide *Real Presence, Real Future* evangelization and planning initiative. *Real Presence, Real Future* is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers, and all the faithful. Through listening to the needs and ideas of our people, this process that Bishop Brennan started will help determine the best path forward to increase the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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CONTACT: Deacon Tom Berg, Jr., Chancellor, Diocese of Columbus, (o) 614-224-2251, (c) 614-747-6716, email: [tberg@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tberg@columbuscatholic.org). A full media kit is available at [www.columbuscatholic.org/bishop](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/bishop).