



# The Diocese of Knoxville

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## Bishop Stika Episcopal Highlights

- **Priests Ordained: 24**  
2009 (2), 2010 (1), 2011 (1), 2012 (1), 2013 (2), 2014 (4), 2015 (4), 2016 (1), 2017 (1), 2019 (1) 2020 (2)  
2021 (1), 2023 (3)
- **Permanent Deacons Ordained: 47**  
2016 (23), 2022 (24)
- **New Church dedications: 8**  
2009 (4), 2013 (1), 2018 (2), 2022 (1)
- **Vatican/Papal Visits: 4**  
2012, 2015, 2019, 2022
- **Raised nearly \$23 million** since 2009 for diocesan charities, ministries, healthcare, education, and social justice through the Annual Bishop's Appeal.
- **Established St. Mary's Legacy Foundation** which has **distributed more than \$10 million** to support charity, healthcare, and education in the Diocese of Knoxville since 2011.
- **Initiated the Home Campaign** which, from 2015-2018, **raised \$45 million** to support diocesan parishes, establish the new Pope Francis Charitable trust fund, benefit priest retirement, and help build a new cathedral.
- **Became longest serving bishop** of the Diocese of Knoxville in 2019.
- **Initiated Cause for Sainthood** of diocesan priest Father Patrick Ryan (1844-78) in 2016.
- **Established and supported Masses in English, Spanish, Korean, Swahili, Polish, Vietnamese, Tagalog.**
- **Has dedicated and blessed innumerable parish centers, chapels, charitable ministries, school facilities, statues, groundbreaking, people, and personal articles, over his 14 years leading the Diocese of Knoxville.**