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Pope Leo XIV Names Davenport Priest as Bishop of Baker, OR

“For Bishop-elect Thomas Hennen, ministry is ‘life giving’”

By **Barb Arland-Fye**, Editor of The Catholic Messenger, the Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Davenport

On a recent Saturday, Bishop-elect Thomas Hennen presided at a morning funeral Mass, an afternoon wedding, anointed a parishioner awaiting surgery, heard confessions and presided at the 4 p.m. Mass that included a baptism. That is not necessarily a typical Saturday and while it was hectic, he considers his ministry life giving.

“Five sacraments! I celebrated pretty much all of the sacraments I can celebrate. The only ones that were missing were holy orders and confirmation. I can do confirmation, but not normally,” then-Father Hennen said during a *Catholic Messenger Conversations* Podcast recorded June 25. “That is a good day in the Church,” he added.

Soon, the sacrament of holy orders won’t be an exception to the sacraments he has the authority to celebrate. On July 10, Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop-elect Hennen, 47, as the next Bishop of the Baker, Oregon Diocese.

Ordained to the priesthood 21 years ago – the same date as his appointment to the episcopacy – Bishop-elect Hennen has served for the past five years as the Davenport Diocese’s vicar general and a consultor, and for the past four years as pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

“He has been a most generous and dedicated shepherd in his pastoral ministry with the faithful at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and his invaluable service as Vicar General of our diocese has been a true blessing,” said Bishop Dennis Walsh.

Bishop-elect Hennen has experienced a variety of roles since his priesthood ordination at the cathedral on July 10, 2004. Among his assignments: parochial vicar, campus minister, diocesan vocations director, chaplain and teacher of a diocesan high school and chaplain/director of campus ministry at the diocesan university, St. Ambrose University, his alma mater. He is also a graduate of the North American College in Rome, where he studied as a seminarian for the Davenport Diocese and had the privilege of meeting Pope John Paul II in person.

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El Papa Leó XIV nombra a un sacerdote de Davenport Obispo de Baker, OR

“Para el obispo electo Thomas Hennen, el ministerio es vivificante”

Por **Barb Arland-Fye**, editora de The Catholic Messenger, el periódico católico de la Diócesis de Davenport

Un sábado reciente, el obispo electo Thomas Hennen presidió una Misa fúnebre por la mañana, una boda por la tarde, ungió a un feligrés que esperaba una cirugía, escuchó confesiones y presidió la misa de las 4 p. m. que incluyó un bautismo. No es un sábado típico y, aunque fue un día ajetreado, considera que su ministerio es vivificante.

“¡Cinco sacramentos! Celebré prácticamente todos los sacramentos que puedo celebrar. Los únicos que faltaban eran el Orden Sagrado y la Confirmación. Puedo hacer la Confirmación, pero no normalmente”, dijo el entonces Padre Hennen durante un podcast de *Catholic Messenger Conversations* grabado el 25 de Junio. “Es un buen día en la Iglesia”, añadió.

Pronto, el sacramento del Orden Sagrado no será una excepción a los sacramentos que tiene la autoridad para celebrar. El 10 de Julio, el Papa León XIV nombró al Obispo electo Hennen, de 47 años, como el próximo Obispo de la Diócesis de Baker, Oregon.

Ordenado sacerdote hace 21 años, la misma fecha de su nombramiento al episcopado, el Obispo electo Hennen ha servido durante los últimos cinco años como vicario general y consultor de la Diócesis de Davenport, y durante los últimos cuatro años como párroco de la Catedral del Sagrado Corazón.

“Ha sido un pastor sumamente generoso y dedicado en su ministerio pastoral con los fieles de la Catedral del Sagrado Corazón, y su invaluable servicio como Vicario General de nuestra diócesis ha sido una verdadera bendición”, dijo el Obispo Dennis Walsh.

El Obispo electo Hennen ha desempeñado diversos roles desde su ordenación sacerdotal en la catedral el 10 de julio de 2004. Entre sus asignaciones se encuentran: vicario parroquial, ministro del campus universitario, director diocesano de vocaciones, capellán y profesor de una escuela secundaria diocesana y capellán/director del ministerio universitario en la universidad diocesana, St. Ambrose

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**Bishop-elect/Obispo electo
Thomas Hennen**

Bishop-elect Hennen, continued

In an interview with *The Catholic Messenger* after his ordination to the priesthood, Father Hennen said he was anxious but excited to begin his priestly ministry. "This is one of those things where you have prepared for years and years and years, and it's finally here," he said.

He expressed gratitude to his parents, John and Jo'An Hennen (now deceased), his family and his friends for all their support, along with Bishop William Franklin, who ordained him, and the many priests who served as his mentor. "I thank God for the gift of ministry he's given me, and I hope and pray that I can share that gift with others," Father Hennen said.

His joy for pastoral ministry remains steadfast, as he shared during last month's podcast. While he appreciates his role as vicar general, the parish ministry is life giving. He described the role of vicar general as being a sounding board for the bishop and handling some of the challenges in parishes that the bishop delegates to him. As vicar general, he also has opportunities to be engaged in visioning for major diocesan initiatives, such as the diocesan Synod.

However, "the parish stuff, that's my bread and butter," he said. "I half-joke that if being vicar general is the price I have to pay to be pastor of Sacred Heart, it's worth it." He loves his interaction with the people and celebrating the sacraments with them. "Every parish I've (served in), I feel has been great."

In addition to all of his diocesan commitments, he also serves as the Question Box columnist for *The Catholic Messenger*. "I like doing this kind of thing. I enjoy writing. I enjoy being able to exercise a little bit of teaching," he said. "In some ways, it's easier to write than my weekly parish bulletin!"

After three years of anticipation the Diocese of Baker is joyfully preparing to welcome a new bishop. The announcement has sparked widespread excitement, especially as Bishop-elect Thomas Hennen is deeply respected and well-loved in the Diocese of Davenport—making the long wait feel all the more worthwhile. We invite you to join us in praying for, and warmly welcoming Bishop-elect Thomas Hennen to the Diocese of Baker.

For the latest updates on ordination plans, please visit the diocesan website, where information will be posted first.
www.dioceseofbaker.org

Obispo electo Hennen, continúa

University, su alma máter. También se graduó del North American College en Roma, donde estudió como seminarista para la Diócesis de Davenport y tuvo el privilegio de conocer personalmente al Papa Juan Pablo II.

En una entrevista con *The Catholic Messenger* después de su ordenación sacerdotal, el Padre Hennen expresó su entusiasmo por comenzar su ministerio sacerdotal. "Esta es una de esas cosas para las que uno se ha preparado durante años y años, y por fin ha llegado", dijo.

Expresó su gratitud a sus padres, John y Jo'An Hennen (ya fallecidos), a su familia y amigos por todo su apoyo, así como al obispo William Franklin, quien lo ordenó, y a los numerosos sacerdotes que fueron su mentor. "Agradezco a Dios el don del ministerio que me ha dado, y espero y rezo para poder compartirlo con los demás", dijo el padre Hennen.

Su alegría por el ministerio pastoral se mantiene firme, como compartió durante el podcast del mes pasado. Si bien aprecia su rol como vicario general, el ministerio parroquial es vital. Describió el rol del vicario general como el de ser una caja de resonancia para el obispo y gestionar algunos de los desafíos en las parroquias que este le delega. Como vicario general, también tiene oportunidades de participar en la visión de importantes iniciativas diocesanas, como el Sínodo diocesano.

Sin embargo, "la parroquia es mi sustento", dijo. "Bromeo diciendo que si ser vicario general es el precio que tengo que pagar para ser párroco del Sagrado Corazón, vale la pena". Le encanta interactuar con la gente y celebrar los sacramentos con ellos. "Cada parroquia en la que he servido ha sido maravillosa".

Además de todos sus compromisos diocesanos, también es columnista de la sección de preguntas de *The Catholic Messenger*. "Me gusta hacer este tipo de cosas. Disfruto escribir. Disfruto poder ejercer un poco de enseñanza", dijo. "¡En cierto modo, es más fácil escribir que mi boletín parroquial semanal!"

Tras tres años de anticipación, la Diócesis de Baker se prepara con alegría para dar la bienvenida a un nuevo obispo. El anuncio ha generado gran entusiasmo, especialmente porque el obispo electo Thomas Hennen es muy respetado y querido en la Diócesis de Davenport, lo que hace que la larga espera merezca aún más la pena. Los invitamos a unirse a nosotros para dar una cálida bienvenida al obispo electo Thomas Hennen a la Diócesis de Baker.

Para obtener las últimas novedades sobre los planes de ordenación, visite el sitio web diocesano, donde se publicará la información primero:
www.dioceseofbaker.org



Priest Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following as they celebrate their ordination anniversaries in September.

Most Reverend Liam Cary,
Ordained to PriesthoodSeptember 5, 1992

Rev. Joseph Levine,
Holy Family, BurnsSeptember 14, 2010

The dedication and commitment of our bishop and clergy play a vital role in supporting their communities. Let us offer gratitude for their years of service and pray for their continued guidance, strength, and well-being.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As we joyfully prepare for the ordination and installation of Bishop-elect Thomas Hennen on September 29th, some parishioners have kindly inquired about ways to support the diocese with the associated expenses. If you feel called to assist in this special moment for our diocesan family, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to:

The Diocese of Baker
c/o Bishop's Ordination
641 SW Umatilla Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

Or, for online giving and more information, please visit:
dioceseofbaker.org/give

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly for your kindness and support during this blessed time.



Pilgrims of Faith 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal



Practicing Good Stewardship in Our Parishes

As we journey through August, parishes begin to teem with plans and new vitality. We find community and support, liturgy and ritual, sacrament and healing. In the parish, we find a way to give and a way to receive. On a practical level, fall is the time when parish planning gears up for the seasons ahead. Now, for a Christian steward, is the time to prayerfully consider your own involvement in the life of the parish in the coming year.

The parish is where the Church lives, and stewards are the lifeblood of a successful parish. How might we serve – and be served? The Christian steward knows participation in the parish is a win-win situation, feeding us as we feed others. Where to begin? Your parish website or office may provide a list of ministries. Consider your own unique gifts and respond in a way that nourishes your soul! Maybe you're the party planner who'd love to serve on the social committee. Or perhaps you have a heart for helping the bereaved. Are you called to lector, or perhaps to take the Eucharist to the homebound? Maybe this is the year you need to soak in the fruits of adult education. Possibly you see a ministry missing and want to propose it. Perhaps, as a long time steward, you want to be part of revitalizing the stewardship efforts of your parish.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to use our gifts of love and service to build up His Church. Supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal *Pilgrims of Faith* is one powerful way we can answer that call. The Diocese of Baker is blessed with generous, faith-filled people who come together as one

Body of Christ, making it possible to serve others in ways no single parish or individual could accomplish alone.

In giving to the Appeal, we are also enriched—especially through our participation in the Holy Eucharist and parish ministries. The Appeal empowers the local church to serve through ministries like adult faith formation, Hispanic ministry, OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), youth and young adult programs, religious education, and ongoing evangelization opportunities.

Every gift to the Appeal helps fund ministries and services that reach thousands across Eastern Oregon and beyond, and opens our hearts to recognize Christ among us.



*A portion of this article is used with permission of the International Catholic Stewardship Council Newsletter.

Join us for the
Diocese of Baker
Sanctity of Life Conference

Cultivating Life

Saturday, October 11, 2025

9am to 4pm

at St Thomas Catholic Church
(1720 NW 19th St, Redmond, OR 97756)

.....
\$30 per adult (scholarships available)

Teens & children FREE

Bring the whole family!

Childcare provided at no charge.

Live interpretation in Spanish will be available.

.....

Guest Speakers



**Bishop-Elect
Thomas Hennen**
of the Diocese of Baker



Fr. Kyle Ratuiste
Vice Rector & Diocesan
Bioethicist (Spokane)



Melissa Ohden
Founder & Director of The
Abortion Survivors Network



Makyra Williamson
Community Outreach Director
for Oregon Right to Life



Sharolyn Smith
Political Director
for Oregon Right to Life

Únase a nosotros para la
Conferencia Santidad de Vida
con la Diócesis de Baker

Cultivando Vida

Sábado 11 de octubre de 2025

9am a 4pm

En la Iglesia de St Thomas
(1720 NW 19th St, Redmond, OR 97756)

.....
\$30 por adulto (becas disponibles)

Adolescentes y niños GRATIS

¡Trae a toda la familia!

Cuidado de niños disponible sin costo.

Habrà interpretación disponible en español.

.....

Nuestros invitados

For more information and to register:
dioceseofbaker.org/pro-life
or 541-388-4004



Para más información e inscripción:
dioceseofbaker.org/pro-life
o 541-388-4004

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