

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 10:04 AM

Subject: Around the Diocese: April 21, 2025



Bishop David Konderla Issues Statement Regarding Death of Pope Francis

In response to Pope Francis' death, [announced today by The Vatican](#), Most Rev. David Konderla, Bishop of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma, has issued the following statement:

BROKEN ARROW — "The light of faith: this is how the Church's tradition speaks of the great gift brought by Jesus." These are the first words of "*Lumen Fidei*," the first Encyclical of Pope Francis at the beginning of his pontificate.

As a Jesuit priest, then Bishop, then Cardinal, and finally as our Holy Father these past 12 years, Pope Francis dedicated his life to inviting all to see and know Jesus Christ, the light of the world, the light of faith, and the loving Savior.

His heroic service, well past the age most people retire and begin to rest, is a testament to his burning desire to make Jesus known, especially to those on the margins.

Now, as we commend him to God, let us take up and continue the ministry of the Church: Spreading the good news that Jesus is Lord and loves and saves all who put their faith in him.

Most Rev. David Konderla
Bishop of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma



EOC File Photo

In this undated file photo, Bishop David Konderla is greeted by Pope Francis.

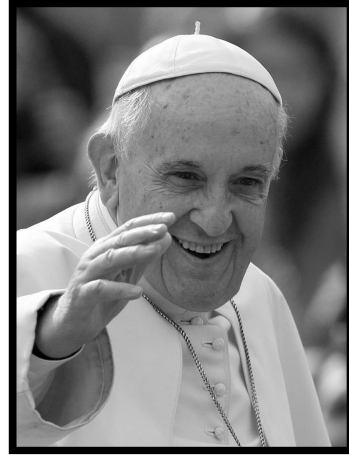
Memorial Mass for Pope Francis Set for 6:30 p.m. Tonight at Holy Family Cathedral

TULSA — A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Pope Francis tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Cathedral. Fr. Elkin Gonzalez will be the celebrant and homilist.

A novena has been prepared to help pray for the Pope during this time. The daily novena—lasting for the *novendiales* period as directed by the College of Cardinals—consists of a short reading from Scripture or some other ecclesiastical text and some brief prayers, including orations drawn from the *Roman Missal* and the *Order of Christian Funerals*.

In cathedrals, basilicas, parish churches, shrines, and chapels around the world, the Holy Eucharist will be offered for the repose of our Holy Father, Pope Francis' soul. Communities and individuals will ask God to bestow his infinite mercy on the man who served the Church as Bishop of Rome.

The Novena will be posted in English and Spanish on all the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma social media accounts.



**Novena
in Memory of
Pope Francis**

Archbishop Broglio, President of USCCB, Issues Statement on Death of Pope Francis

Upon the news from the Holy See announcing the passing of Pope Francis on April 21, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued the following statement in remembrance:

WASHINGTON – Upon the news from the Holy See announcing the passing of Pope Francis on April 21, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued the following statement in remembrance:

Pope Francis will long be remembered for his outreach to those on the margins of the Church and of society. He renewed for us the mission to bring the Gospel out to the

ends of the earth and offer divine mercy to all. He has also taken advantage of the present Jubilee to call us to a profound hope: one that is not an empty or naïve hope, but one grounded in the promise of Almighty God to be with us always.

Even with his roots in the Piedmont region of Italy, the first Pope from our American Continent was marked by his experience as a Jesuit and a shepherd in Buenos Aires. He brought that experience and vision with him to his ministry for the universal Church. Recently, he expressed anew prayerful hope in his [letter of support](#) to the Bishops of this country in our attempts to respond to the face of Christ in the migrant, poor, and unborn. In fact, he has always used the strongest and clearest expressions in the defense of the dignity of the human person from conception to natural death.

I last saw him at the Jubilee Mass for the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel. Despite the challenges of his health, he was with us and even used a slight gesture to salute the group of bishops who concelebrated the Mass before he boarded the vehicle to return to Santa Marta.

The passage from this life of the Bishop of Rome calls us to pray for his eternal rest and to continue on our path to a deeper union with the Lord Jesus. We remember his leadership in inspiring nations, organizations, and individuals to a renewed commitment to care for each other and our common home.

The Bishops of the United States unite in prayer with Catholics here and around the world and all people of goodwill in gratitude for the life of our revered shepherd. We mourn the passing of our Holy Father and beg Saint Joseph to accompany him. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

For more, go to the USCCB website [here](#).



Pope Francis In Memoriam

December 17, 1936 - April 21, 2025

[265th Successor of St. Peter >](#)

Holy Week in the Diocese

BROKEN ARROW — The 2025 Lenten Season concluded with Easter Vigil Mass Saturday night at parishes across eastern Oklahoma, where it is estimated that more than 450 new Catholics came into the Church. Here is a sampling of photos from the many Holy Week Masses and observances here in the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.





OBITUARY

Deacon Daniel Brennan

June 23, 1966 - April 14, 2025

Daniel Michael Brennan, beloved son, brother, husband, father and Deacon died in a tragic cycling accident on April 14, 2025, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Daniel was born the eldest of three boys on June 23rd, 1966, in Erie, Pennsylvania to parents Patricia Waitrovich Brennan and Daniel Michael Brennan Sr. He graduated from Hartshorne High School class of 1984, then furthered his education by obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Oklahoma State University.

He began his career as a mechanical engineer at John Zink Corporation, where he dedicated 33 years of service. In addition, he earned both his Professional Engineer (PE) license and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. He played a

pivotal role in the company's rapid success as a global project manager which opened the door to international assignments in England, Germany and Luxembourg.

Danny and Julianna (Julie) were united in the sacrament of marriage on September 27, 1997. For 28 years, they raised three children together, enjoying adventures on the lake, traveling with the RV, and sharing meaningful moments with family and friends.

Danny actively participated in the Cursillo movement and was ultimately ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Tulsa on May 31, 2014. He enjoyed bringing family and friends together and loved the outdoors. His family and friends will always remember him as a devoted and faithful man known for his fun-loving nature and unwavering work ethic.

He is survived by his wife, Julie and children Luke, Chloe and Michael of Tulsa, Oklahoma; his mother, Patricia Brennan of Hartshorne, Oklahoma; his brother and sister-in-law, Greg and Tamara Brennan of Angleton, Texas; his brother and sister-in-law, Tommy and Suzanne Brennan of Poteau, Oklahoma; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Ken and Cheryl Yott, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Tracy and Ken Matthews. He is also survived by many beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Daniel Michael Brennan Sr.

Visitation will be held from 4 - 6 p.m., Monday, April 21, at the Church of Saint Benedict in Broken Arrow, followed by the Rosary at 6 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 11 a.m. at the Church of Saint Benedict, 2200 W. Ithica St., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, followed by a Graveside service at Calvary Cemetery in Tulsa. Please join the family for a reception at the Church of Saint Benedict immediately after the Graveside service.

For more information, see [Fitzgerald Funeral Service](#).





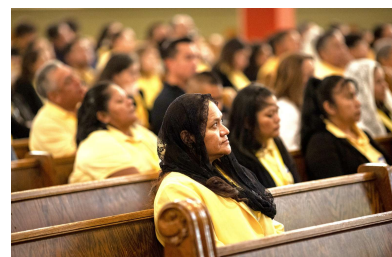
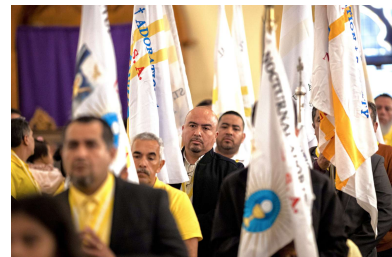
EOC File Photos

Nocturnal Adoration Society of Tulsa Formally Installed

TULSA — A special moment for the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma occurred on Saturday, April 12, at Holy Family Cathedral as the Diocesan Council of the [Nocturnal Adoration Society](#) of Tulsa was formally recognized.

"For this event, we have invited councils from several dioceses, including Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma City, Missouri, and Texas. We are expecting around 300 participants, making it a truly significant gathering," said Fr. Leonardo Medina, Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Hartshorne and Diocesan Spiritual Director of the Nocturnal Adoration Society. "This is the fruit of 10 years of work in our diocese, and finally, we will officially establish our Diocesan Council."

Fr. Medina said the diocese was also honored to welcome Father Alberto Anguiano, Rector of the Pontifical University of Mexico, who guided the reflections for the adorers prior to the installation Mass that was held at noon.



The day began at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Holy Hour of Adoration at 11 a.m. Standing in for Bishop David Konderla, who was fighting an illness, Fr. Gary Kastl, vicar general for the diocese, celebrated the Mass during which the official installation of the local council took place.



Photos special to the EOC by Valentin Danescu

Church of St. Benedict to Host 13th Annual 'Women of Achievement' Awards

BROKEN ARROW — The 13th bi-annual Woman of Achievement, hosted by the Tulsa Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, is scheduled to take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Church of Saint Benedict in Broken Arrow on Thursday, April 24.

The event, beginning with a continental breakfast and a guest speaker, will take place in McGuire Hall. Bishop David Konderla will celebrate Mass at noon with concelebrants St. Benedict Pastor Fr. Bryan Brooks, Msgr. Gregory Gier, as well as visiting priests.

Mass will be followed by a catered lunch, an awards ceremony, and a silent auction. All women of the parish and guests are invited to attend. Cost is \$25, payable by cash or check to the Church of Saint Benedict.

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's annual "Women of Achievement" awards are given annually to women in the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma. The Diocese of Tulsa also recognizes and celebrates the contributions of women in the Church, with a particular focus on their roles as mothers, wives, and saints.



Faith & Culture Conference Set May 2-3

BROKEN ARROW — The five intellectual virtues will be the main topic under consideration at this year's annual Faith & Culture Conference, scheduled for May 2-3, at Holy Family Cathedral's Heiring Auditorium.

The [Faith & Culture Conference](#) is an annual gathering hosted by the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma's Department of Evangelization and Catechesis as part of Adult Faith Formation.

This year's theme is Human Happiness & the Intellectual Virtues. The cost is \$20 and includes five talks, an open mic panel discussion, Friday and Saturday social, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Distinguished presenters for this year's conference include Dr. Jennifer Frey, Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Philosophy of the University of Tulsa, on Friday evening.

Saturday's speakers include Dr. Joshua Hochschild of Mount St. Mary's University where he directs the Philosophy, Politics and Economics program; Dr. Kent Lasnoski, formerly an associate professor of theology at Wyoming Catholic College and founder of new Catholic Trade School; Dr. Mathew Post, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs for

the Honors College at University of Tulsa; and the diocese's resident theologian Dr. Richard Meloche.

The panel will reimagine the dynamic and life-altering role of the intellectual virtues in the pursuit of human happiness. The aim is to bring local and national educators together in fruitful and festive dialogue to discuss the importance of the Catholic faith in shaping and restoring culture.

For more information about the conference or to register, click [here](#).

FAITH & CULTURE
CONFERENCE

MAY 2ND & 3RD

Holy Family Cathedral

HUMAN HAPPINESS & THE INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES

Friday Night



DR JENNIFER
FREY

Saturday



DR JOSHUA
HOCHSCHILD



DR KENT LASNOSKI

\$20

INCLUDES:

- 5 TALKS
- AN OPEN MIC PANEL
- FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SOCIAL
- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH SATURDAY



DR RICHARD MELOCHE



DR MATTHEW POST

DIOCESEOFTULSA.ORG/FAITH-AND-CULTURE-CONFERENCE



Diocese of Tulsa
and Eastern Oklahoma

From the Editor...

As we enter the 50 days of Easter Season, which culminates on Pentecost Sunday — this year on June 8 — we are greeted with news of the passing of Pope Francis at the

age of 88. The Vatican announced his death at 7:35 a.m. local time on Easter Monday, April 21, at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta, as confirmed by the Holy See Press Office. Pope Francis, who had been fighting respiratory illness for much of the past two months, led the Catholic Church for a little more than 12 years.

Additional information about funeral arrangements will be announced soon. For more news coverage, click [here](#).

Meanwhile, the Church continues to add to the flock. Hundreds of people (465 at last count)) from across the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma were brought into Full Communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass at local parishes. This surely represents just a tiny fraction of the thousands across the U.S. and perhaps hundreds of thousands around the world coming into the Church this Easter.

On a personal note, my wife and I were blessed to be counted among the many Protestant converts becoming Catholic this past weekend. It has been a journey of many years in the making, but we're just getting started. I am deeply thankful to our Catholic family members, our many Catholic friends and acquaintances, and all of my faithful co-workers at the Chancery who have played a role in this journey.

In a future issue of *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic*, we will launch a new series of stories called "Becoming Catholic." Each story will reveal the personal stories, and, in some cases, extraordinary journeys undertaken by adult converts. We will kick it all off in the July/August issue of the EOC and include additional stories in subsequent issues.

In the meantime, our upcoming June issue is now in the layout/design and editing process with our trusted publishing partner, FAITH Catholic. We focus this next issue on local Catholic Education, plus all that is happening in vocations here in the diocese: 2025 Priest Assignments, upcoming Priest and Diaconate ordinations, new Seminarians, and more. It will be packed with local content.

On a final note: May 5 marks the first anniversary of the powerful and deadly tornado that struck the communities of Barnsdall and Bartlesville last year. A new short film by local Catholic filmmaker Manny Marquez will revisit the events surrounding that event and, specifically, the impact the storm had on the church and parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church in Barnsdall.

You can also read our coverage of those remarkable events in our EOC online archives [here](#). We will provide additional details about the film's release very soon.

Chris Rush
Chief Editor

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" — Philippians 4:8

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic



Watch us on YouTube



Follow us on Instagram



Follow us on X



Find us on Facebook

**Subscribe
to EOC Magazine**

**Subscribe
to EOC extra**



Sent by Chris Rush

Direct replies to this email can only be seen by admins.
Email me when people reply to this note

To ensure that these emails land in your inbox and do not go into spam, please add mail@flocknote.com to your email address book or safe senders list.



[my info](#) • [unsubscribe](#)

12300 E. 91st Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74012 • dioceseoftulsa.org