



May 11, 2008

Fort Worth Vicar General to Head Seminary **Bishop Announces New Rector**

(Dallas) Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving will soon have a new leader. Bishop Kevin J. Farrell announced today the appointment of the Very Rev. Michael Olson as the new seminary rector.

Father Olson, a Roman Catholic priest who currently serves as a pastor and the vicar general in the Diocese of Fort Worth, will fill the important post being vacated by Bishop-elect Michael Duca who is leaving Dallas to serve as the Bishop of Shreveport, LA.

Father Olson was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth June 3, 1994. Since July 2006, he has been serving as vicar general and as pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in the Fort Worth diocese. He has previously served as associate pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Bedford from July 1994 through June 1997.

Father Olson was a recipient of a Basselin Scholarship at the Catholic University of America from which he earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in philosophy in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Father Olson also holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts in theological studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He was a charter recipient of the CRS Global Fellowship in 1993 and is a past recipient of the Presidential Fellowship of Saint Louis University where he studied at the Center for Health Care Ethics in the Catholic Tradition between 1997 and 2001. He is a doctoral candidate in moral theology at the *Accademia Alfonsiana* in Rome. He has served as a member of the Ethics Committee for Research Involving Human Subjects at the University of Texas Medical Center in Houston. He was a member of the formation faculty at Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas and lectured at the University of Saint Thomas School of Theology between 2001 and 2006.

Bishop Farrell stated, "I cannot stress enough the importance of Holy Trinity Seminary in the life of the Church in Dallas and indeed the entire state of Texas. I am so pleased that a fine priest such as Father Olson, who has extensive education, pastoral and administrative experience, will guide our seminary into the future. I am grateful to Bishop Kevin Vann for allowing Father Olson to leave his post in Fort Worth to assume this critically important position."

Father Olson said, "I am humbled by and grateful for the confidence in me that Bishops Farrell and Vann have expressed. I am even more grateful to God for my life as a priest. It has certainly been one filled with joy and opportunities that I never imagined. I am excited and thrilled to now be a part of guiding other men in their journey toward the priesthood."

Father Olson will officially take over as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary on July 1, 2008.

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