

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
For Immediate Release
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For more information
Contact Pat Svacina
817-560-3300
Cell 817 996-9609

Father Richard Flores Named Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann has named Father Richard Flores as rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, effective August 1, 2008.

Father Flores, who currently is the long-time pastor of St. Rita Catholic Church in East Fort Worth and assistant director for Hispanic Vocations, will replace Msgr. Hubert J. Neu who is stepping down from full-time ministry after almost 57 years.

Father Flores is the first Hispanic to be rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, the cathedral for the Diocese of Fort Worth. St. Patrick Cathedral is the parish of Bishop Vann.

A native of Laredo, Texas, Father Flores was ordained on June 19, 1984.

Father Flores, the son of Gilbert and Maria Flores who live in White Settlement, moved to Fort Worth with his family at an early age when his father took a job at General Dynamics.

As a junior high and high school student, he took a part-time job answering the doors at the St. Patrick Rectory. He attended St. Peter Catholic School in Fort Worth and graduated from Brewer Junior High and High Schools before entering and graduating from the Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

Father Flores also received a Master's of Theology from the University of Dallas, a Master's of Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame and a theology degree from North American College in Rome.

His first assignment after being ordained was at Holy Name Church in Fort Worth. He has been pastor of St. Rita parish for 15 years.

Msgr. Neu, a native of Lindsay, Texas, was ordained a priest on May 30, 1951 in Lindsay while the Fort Worth area was still a part of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas. His first assignment was at St. Bernard Parish in Dallas. From 1964 to 1977, he was pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington. He was pastor of Our

Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls from 1977 to 1981. In 1981, he became pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington where he remained until he became pastor of St. Patrick Cathedral in 1995.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Msgr. Neu has been a tribunal judge, a long-time member of the diocesan Building Commission, a member of the diocesan Priests' retirement committee and active in many other ministries.

Bishop Vann thanks Msgr. Neu for his contributions at St. Patrick Cathedral and accomplishments. The bishop says he is grateful that Msgr. Neu will continue to help with Masses throughout the diocese, as well as continuing to service on the diocesan Building Commission, the Pastoral Finance Council, and as a judge for the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

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