



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2017

Media Contact:

Gabe Jones

314.792.7557

gabejones@archstl.org

Father Shawn McKnight Named Bishop of Jefferson City

Bishop-designate McKnight will be the fourth bishop of this neighboring diocese

ST. LOUIS – Pope Francis has announced that Father Shawn McKnight of the Wichita, Kansas diocese has been named the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri. This position has been held by the Most Reverend Bishop John Gaydos since June 25, 1997, when Pope John Paul II appointed him as the Bishop of Jefferson City.

Bishop-designate McKnight taught graduate studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, from 2003 to 2008, where he also served as director of liturgy, dean of students, director of formation in the school of theology, and vice-president for development and alumni relations. He currently serves on the faculty of the St. Meinrad Permanent Deacon Formation Program.

He served as chaplain at Newman University in Wichita from 2000 to 2001, where at the same time he was an adjunct professor of theology and visiting scholar at the university's Bishop Gerber Institute of Catholic Studies.

Bishop-designate McKnight holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry from the University of Dallas, Master of Arts and master of theology degrees from the Pontifical College Josephinum, and licentiate and doctoral degrees in theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselm, in Rome.

"I am extremely grateful to Bishop Gaydos for his many years of priestly service to the people of Missouri, both in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Jefferson City. The people of Jefferson City are blessed to have had a man such as Bishop Gaydos as their shepherd," said Archbishop Robert Carlson. "They are equally blessed to now receive a man of Bishop-designate McKnight's quality and dedication. I congratulate him on his new appointment and I ask God to grant both Bishop-elect McKnight and Bishop Gaydos many years of continued, fruitful service leading the souls to the joy of the Gospel."

#CatholicSTL