



2009 High School Graduates

Our 2009 high school seniors were honored with a breakfast on Sunday, May 17, sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women. They attended the 11 a.m. Mass and processed in wearing their cap and gown. Bob Moore presented them with a clock for their achievement sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. He commented on the number of honor students and a valedictorian, James Durham. Pictured are: Brianna Bailey, James Durham, Blake Hebert, Fr. John Appiah, Lesley Jones, Alex Miller, Mike Myers, Stefanie Smith, and Bob Moore. Not pictured are Zach Ptacek, Carrie Woods, and Chris Petruccelli. Two attended Chuckey Doak High School and eight attended Greeneville High School.



Spring Break Mission Trip

These students went to Bay Minnette, Alabama, to the home of Notre Dame's former parishioner, Sandra Smith, during spring break. The group worked in Mobile at the Catholic Center to sort food, medical supplies, and shred papers before seeing the Basilica, an Imax movie, and the science museum. Next day they cleaned the Benefit Shop in Bay Minnette before going to the Gulf Shore beach and dinner at the Oyster House. They saw Mother Angelica's Church and the Grotto at St. Bernard Abby in Cullman. Pictured are Zach Ptacek, Susan Collins, James Smith, Flat Stanley, Sandra Smith seated, Rachele Fenter kneeling, Kayla Murphy, Mary Ann Murphy, and Stefania Collins. Chuck Alter also present.

Bishop Richard Stika

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In the early years of his priesthood Father Stika worked as an associate pastor in three parishes, including the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. He also served as associate director of the Office of Vocations for the St. Louis Archdiocese and as spiritual director for the archdiocesan Catholic Youth Council. On June 28, 1995, he was made a Prelate of Honor of His Holiness and hence known by the title Monsignor.

In 2004 he became pastor of the Church of the Annunziata in Ladue, Mo., in which role he served until Pope Benedict XVI appointed him bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville. He was ordained Knoxville's ordinary on March 19, 2009.

He has held several leadership positions in the St. Louis Archdiocese, serving as vicar general (1997 to 2004), chancellor (1994 to 2004), and secretary to Archbishop Justin Rigali (1994 to 1997). From 2004 until his present, Bishop Stika served as episcopal vicar of the archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, the archbishop's delegate to the Archdiocesan Review Board, and chair of the Child Safety Committee. In 1999 then-Monsignor Stika coordinated for the archdiocese the visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis.

Bishop Stika considers Pope John Paul II his "episcopal grandfather" because the pope ordained Cardinal Rigali an archbishop in 1985, and the cardinal will be ordaining Monsignor Stika a bishop. The bishop met John Paul II numerous times on trips to the Vatican. In February of this year he visited Pope Benedict XVI to thank him personally for appointing him bishop of Knoxville.

Bishop Stika is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, a member of the Equestrian Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, and a board member of the Daughters of St. Paul of St. Louis. He has a strong love for contemplative religious orders and hopes to bring such an order to the Diocese of Knoxville.

He is a die-hard fan and supporter of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He enjoys spending time with his dog, Rosie, a 2-year-old cockapoo (bred by crossing a cocker spaniel and a poodle). He appreciates a variety of music, from classical to the Beatles and Frank Sinatra. He likes to work with his hands and loves to read biographies and history books concerning the Civil War.