



Bishop-elect Erik Pohlmeier Fact Sheet

Age: 50 (will be 51 at time of ordination)

Born: July 20, 1971, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Immediate family: Parents Deacon Tom and Sharon Pohlmeier of Paris, Ark., three brothers, Jason (Erin) of Fayetteville, Ark. (who will become a permanent deacon June 25), Keith (Melissa) of Springfield, Va., and Kevin (Meagan) of Mulberry, Ark.; one sister, Diane Gehring (Dan) of Highland Village, Texas, and 20 nieces and nephews

Education: University of Arkansas, 1989-1991, mechanical engineering; St. Meinrad College, Indiana, bachelor's in philosophy, 1992-1994; Gregorian University, Rome, bachelor's in sacred theology, Magna Cum Laude, 1994-1997; University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, master's in spiritual theology, Summa Cum Laude, 1997-1998

Ordination to the priesthood: July 25, 1998, Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, Ark.

Former duties in Diocese of Little Rock: associate pastor, Christ the King, Little Rock, 1998-2001; pastor, Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Village, 2001-2005; pastor, St. John, Hot Springs, 2005-2010; pastor, St. Mary, Hot Springs, 2007-2010; assistant vocations director, 2008-2016; pastor, Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Little Rock, 2010-2016

Former board appointment: Couple to Couple League national board of directors, 2007-2016

Appointed bishop of St. Augustine: May 24, 2022, by Pope Francis

Current positions at time of appointment: director of the Office of Faith Formation and Office of Deacon Formation, 2016-present; pastor, Christ the King, Little Rock, January 2020-present; theological consultant for *Arkansas Catholic* newspaper, 2003-present; director of continuing education of clergy, 2019-present; Catholic Rural Life priest retreat presenter, 2019-present

Current board appointments: Diocese of Little Rock consultor, presbyteral council, personnel board and clergy welfare board

Ordination to episcopacy: July 22, 2022, St. Augustine

Noteworthy: Bishop-elect Pohlmeier is only the fourth Arkansas priest to become a bishop. The first was Bishop Albert Fletcher in 1940 for the Diocese of Little Rock, and the second was Bishop Lawrence Graves for the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana, in 1976. Bishop Francis I. Malone, also a former pastor of Christ the King Church in Little Rock, was ordained a bishop for the Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana, in 2020.

Bishop-elect Pohlmeier has a connection to the Diocese of St. Augustine. An aunt, uncle, cousin and her husband and children live in Jacksonville, Florida. He celebrated his cousin's wedding in 2001 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine.