

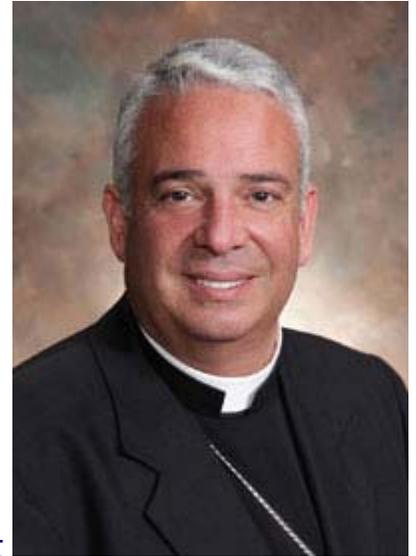
Pope Appoints Bishop Perez to Lead Diocese of Cleveland

Pope Francis has named Bishop Nelson J. Perez, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre as Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio.

The appointment was publicized this morning in Washington, DC, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Bishop-designate Perez will be installed as the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland at a Solemn Mass on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland.

The Diocese of Cleveland comprises 3,414 square miles that include eight counties in northeast Ohio. It has a total population of 2,774,113 people of which 677,219 or 24 percent are Catholic.



Bishop Barres greets news with the 'Joy of the Gospel'

Below is an excerpt from Bishop Barres' statement. You can read it all here.

"Bishop Perez is a compassionate and loving pastor who as Vicar of Eastern Long Island and Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Rockville Centre shepherded the People of God with both the spirit of the Divine Mercy and the New Evangelization.

Bishop Perez' great strength, pastoral insight and support of the People of God in our parishes was drawn from his years as a dedicated pastor of parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. He experienced every joy, sorrow and challenge a parish pastor experiences and our priests understood that he knew them and supported them.

With his background in counseling, the depth of his prayer life and liturgical life, and his joyful and charismatic personality, Bishop Perez brings both the Joy and Laughter of the Gospel into every room he enters."

Bishop Barres Appoints Father John Wachowicz To Begin His Priestly Career at St. Rosalie's

Father John Wachowicz was born in Manhattan, raised in Little Neck, and moved to Manhasset at 14. He is a graduate of St. Mary's Elementary School in Manhasset, where he was also a parish altar server. While attending Regis High School in Manhattan, he enjoyed playing handball and basketball, and used to play the guitar on subway platforms. Father worked as a sacristan at St. Mary's, where he got to know the priests and deacons at the parish (including a seminarian named Deacon Ed Sheridan), who were a source of inspiration to his vocation. Father John attended Fordham University in the Bronx, where he studied philosophy and was a member of the sailing team. Having attended Jesuit schools for both high school and college, he discerned with the Society of Jesus, but ultimately felt called to serve as a diocesan priest.



After graduating from Fordham with a B.A. in philosophy, he entered St. Joseph's Seminary for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. As a seminarian, Father John spent two summers at St. John the Evangelist in Center Moriches, and one summer at Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport. During the academic year, he did hospital ministry at Calvary Hospital and taught C.C.D. at St. Benedict's, both in the Bronx. As a transitional deacon, Father was assigned to St. Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station, where he enjoyed both practicing Spanish and eating homemade pupusas.

Father John's childhood desire to be a priest was strengthened in high school and college by the Christian witness of his family and parish priests, the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, and his discovery of the Church's teachings in various 20th century encyclicals. He enjoys listening to and playing music, and has played with rock, Irish folk, and bluegrass groups. He also enjoys watching Doctor Who and playing basketball, and is a proud fan of the New York Mets and Glasgow Celtic F.C.