

# Diocesan Finance Council Meeting

22 April 2026 - 4:00 PM

Diocese of Belleville Chancery Conference Room or Conference Call

To participate via **Conference Call**, dial **618-771-5035**. No Call ID or Password required.

**Finance Council Members:**

Jeanette Bax-Kurtz, John Childs, Debi Edwards, Raymond Heinen, Michael Hopkins, Joseph Koppeis, Rev Carl Schrage

**Ex Officio:**

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB (Bishop-Elect), Michael Soete (CFO)

## Agenda

**A. Opening Prayer**

Welcome Bishop-Elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB

**Appointment Announcement**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

1. FC Board Meeting: 10 December 2025

Exhibit B-1

**C. Administrative Office Reports**

1. Chancery Discussion and Analysis

Exhibit C-1

2. Financial Statements & Notes (28 Feb 2026)

Exhibit C-2

3. Fund Performance & Trends

Exhibit C-3

4. Foundation Performance Report

Exhibit C-4

5. CSMA Performance Report

Exhibit C-5

6. Parish Assessments Report

Exhibit C-6

7. Receivables Report

Exhibit C-7

8. Insurance Reports

Exhibit C-8

9. COVID Funding Programs (ERTC) Report

Exhibit C-9

10. Diocese Systems Initiatives

Exhibit C-10

**D. Old Business**

- None

**E. New Business**

**F. The Very Reverend Godfrey Mullen, OSB, Bishop-Elect Comments**

**G. Closing Prayer**

### Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, June 17, 2026	Wednesday October 1, 2026
	Wednesday, December 9, 2026

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Diocese *of* Belleville

## **Appointment**

The Very Reverend Godfrey Mullen, OSB

as The 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the  
Diocese of Belleville



# Office of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Pope Leo XIV has appointed Reverend Godfrey Mullen, O.S.B., as Bishop of Belleville. Bishop-elect Mullen is a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, and current administrator of the Diocese of Belleville. The appointment was publicized in Washington, D.C. on March 13, 2026, by Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The following biographical information for Bishop-elect Mullen was drawn from preliminary materials provided to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Father Mullen was born January 22, 1966, in Salem, Illinois. He studied at St. Meinrad College in Indiana where he received a bachelor's degree in history (1988), a master's degree in theology (1991), and a master of divinity (1994); he received a Ph.D. in liturgical studies from The Catholic University of America (2003). Father Mullen made his solemn monastic profession with the Order of Saint Benedict on August 15, 1992, and he was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1994.

Bishop-elect Mullen's pastoral assignments include: professor of liturgy at St. Meinrad College in Indiana; rector of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, Indiana; rector of Saint Peter Cathedral in Belleville, Illinois; pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish, and of Queen of Peace parish in Belleville, Illinois. He has also served as vicar general of the Diocese of Belleville and has been apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Belleville since May 9, 2025. Bishop-elect Mullen has authored several articles and books about liturgy.

The Diocese of Belleville is comprised of 11,678 square miles in the State of Illinois.

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#### MEDIA CONTACTS:

**Chieko Noguchi**  
202-541-3200  
[Email Me](#)

# Welcome Bishop-Elect! Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

With great joy and gratitude, the Diocese welcomes the announcement of our new bishop-elect, Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB. After months of prayer and anticipation, we give thanks to God for the shepherd who will soon lead our diocesan family.

STATEMENT OF FATHER GODFREY MULLEN,  
OSB:  
[\(PDF\)](#)

Last Saturday morning, Pope Leo XIV named Cardinal Christophe Pierre's successor as apostolic nuncio to the United States. Later that morning, I drove to Eudora, Kansas to preach a parish mission. While I was in the confessional there, I missed two calls. The phone said "Apostolic Nuncio." I saw those missed calls after confessions and before the Vigil Mass. I went on with Mass, admittedly distractedly, and returned the call after I left church that evening. I congratulated Cardinal Pierre on the announcement of his coming resignation. Then he informed me that the Holy Father had appointed me the tenth Bishop of Belleville.



My sincere thanks to our brother from Illinois, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, for his confidence in calling me to shepherd this beautiful flock. I also thank Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Cardinal Blase Cupich, and Archbishop Michael McGovern for their assistance over the past few days in particular. Although some in the diocese have commented that this was their plan, today, I accept this mission in the Church, this service to His people, as God's plan.

I was surprised by Cardinal Pierre's call. While the past ten months as Diocesan Administrator have given me a glimpse into the work of the Bishop, it is uncommon that a Diocesan Administrator is appointed Bishop of the same Diocese. As I told Cardinal Pierre, I have accepted many assignments from Abbots and Bishops under whom I have served and have nearly always grown to love those assignments. I trust that pattern will continue.

As a son of this diocese since I was nine months old, I have always been fascinated by the way Christ is present in His wonderful people in Southern Illinois. With my parents being intimately involved in the work of Saint Theresa of Avila Parish in Salem, I grew up knowing Diocesan Priests and Precious Blood and Felician Sisters. In my high school years, the diocesan youth conference provided a memorable experience of the big and diverse place this Diocese is. The past ten months have taken me to towns in Southern

Illinois where I'd never been before and in every place, there have been warm welcomes and exquisitely visible, living faith. You all are my people. All my life, I have loved you.

Before his departure from here, Archbishop McGovern promulgated a pastoral plan that called our local Church to attend to important priorities: youth and young adults, family life, faith formation, and vital parish life and ministry. This plan, promulgated on Pentecost Sunday, 2024, looked for ways the Holy Spirit could revitalize and prosper our Diocese. The diocesan staff has heard from many about their hopes. And my fundamental hope, after assuring the vibrancy of our central work of worshiping God in the Eucharist, is to welcome the power of the Holy Spirit again into our lives and into our parishes, so that instead of fearing our future, we might be passionately focused on how we, as joyful Disciples of our Savior Jesus, can build His Kingdom in this place and thrive to His glory and honor.

The ninety-nine parishes in our Diocese have been tremendously blessed with gifts beyond all telling. Those gifts have been imparted by our Creator for that singular purpose: building the Kingdom. Instead of focusing on threats, let us seize courageously upon the myriad opportunities we have to welcome Christ in the stranger, to pray with and for one another, to be formed daily in the tradition of grace, to serve Christ in the least of His brothers and sisters, and to call young people to the beautiful service of ministry. In the immigrant, the stranger, the incarcerated, the mentally ill, the alienated, the hungry, the homeless, the elderly and the young, and from East St. Louis to Mt. Carmel, from Kinmundy to Cairo, in every place here, we can find Christ if we look for Him with faith and hope, with the genuine charity that is rightly our way of life.

To be disciples of Jesus means that we must be students and practitioners of hospitality, prayer, formation, and service every day. These four pillars of stewardship must mark our work as we walk the way with Christ. They are our surest appropriate response to all the good He has done for us. These are sturdy pillars upon which many parishes, communities, and schools have been built.

As a Benedictine monk since 1988, I greatly esteem the Church's tradition of prayer and welcome, of education and peace. Our schools, our service agencies, our religious communities all provide us with opportunities to build the Kingdom of Peace, to bring about that great Day of Peace that only Christ Himself can accomplish.

To my family, my parents and sister who are deceased and my living siblings, who first shared the faith with me, thank you. To the monks of Saint Meinrad who have tolerated this extrovert in their midst these past 38 years and taught me the invaluable rhythm of prayer and work, thank you. To brother priests near and far who have trained my heart to love the sheep of Christ's flock, thank you. To the deacons who serve our people so faithfully, thank you. To the seminarians, deacon candidates, lay students, and youth who challenged me in ministry at Saint Meinrad, thank you. To women religious who taught me and welcomed me as chaplain and retreat preacher, thank you. To parishioners who proved to me that every parish can thrive, really thrive, through the good work of stewardship, thank you. To all the people of the Diocese of Evansville and this Diocese of Belleville who have welcomed me into your lives and trained my heart to see such goodness in you, thank you.

And so, on May 1, we set out on the tenth leg of this trek toward salvation in the Diocese of Belleville. May our good and gracious God bless us with the good cheer of grateful givers. May He bring us lasting peace. May He convince us of the extravagant graces still to be bestowed. And in His good time, may He bring us all together to everlasting life.

## STATEMENT FROM HIS EMINECE CARDINAL BLASE CUPICH:

"We congratulate Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB on his appointment to the Diocese of Belleville by our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV," said Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago. "He has distinguished himself as a college professor, an able administrator and a proven pastor, serving the People of God and the Church with humility and devotion for more than 30 years. We are confident he will be a strong and compassionate leader for the Belleville diocese, and we look forward to working with him."

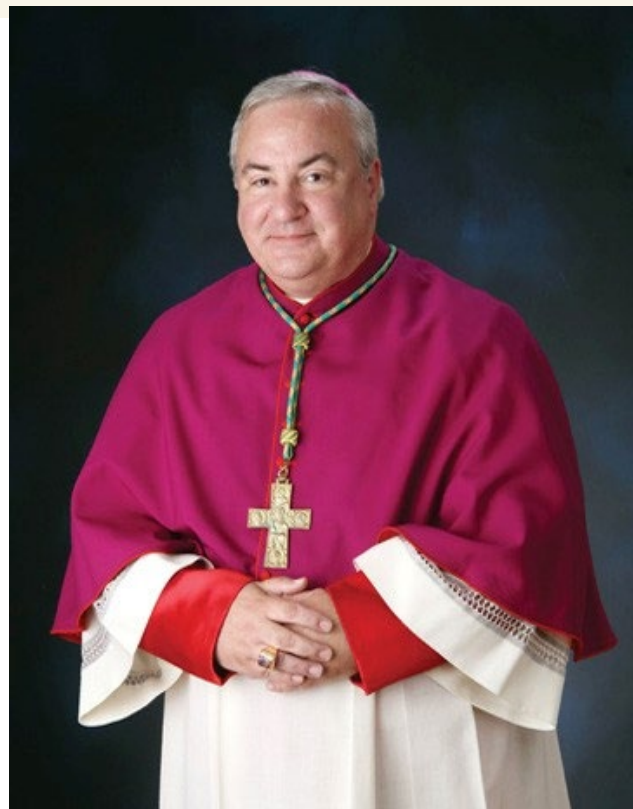


## STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL MCGOVERN:

Each day I thank God for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV, who today has appointed Father Godfrey Mullen, OSB, as the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville.

Father Godfrey, a priest and Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, is a native son of the Belleville diocese. Since I departed from Belleville to become Archbishop of Omaha last May, Father Godfrey has served as Administrator of the diocese while continuing as Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter. Father Godfrey's years of priestly ministry, prayerfulness, compassion, intelligence, and humor will be great assets as he shepherds the people of southern Illinois into the future, a future filled with hope.

I ask you to join me in praying God's abundant blessings for Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen, OSB, and for the clergy and people of the Diocese of Belleville.



Father Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
March 2026

CURRICULUM  
VITAE

Assistant Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental  
Theology (*currently on leave*)

Rector/Pastor: St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville,  
Illinois

Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of Belleville

Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Belleville

Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Belleville

Born January 22, 1966

Professed Temporary Monastic Vows

August 6, 1989

Solemn Monastic Profession August 15, 1992

Ordained Priest June 5, 1994

*Degrees*

Saint Meinrad College,

St. Meinrad, Indiana

Bachelor of Arts: History, 1988

Saint Meinrad School of Theology,

St. Meinrad, Indiana

Master of Arts: Catholic Life & Thought, 1993

Saint Meinrad School of Theology,

St. Meinrad, Indiana

Master of Divinity, 1994

The Catholic University of America,

Washington, D.C.

Doctor of Philosophy: Liturgical Studies, 2003

## *Pastoral & Ministerial Activities*

### At Saint Meinrad Archabbey

Assistant House Prefect, 1989-1990  
Assistant Refectorian, 1989-1990  
Custodian of the *Opus Dei*, 1989-1990  
Assistant Choirmaster, 1990-1994  
Seminary studies, 1990-1994  
Choirmaster, 1995-1997  
Member of the Archabbot's Council, 2002-2003, 2004-2005  
Member of the Monastery Liturgy Committee, 2002-2012  
Interim Manager of the Archabbey Guest House, 2004-2005

### At Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology

Associate Director of Supervised Ministry, 1995-1996  
Dean of Lay Students, 1995-1996  
Spiritual Director 1995-  
Acting Director of Supervised Ministry, 1996-1997  
Instructor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology, 2002-2003  
Assistant Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology, 2003- (*on leave*)  
Director of Continuing Education, 2002-2005  
Director of Permanent Deacon Formation, 2002-2008  
Associate Formation Dean, 2002-2008  
Seminary Director of Worship, 2003-2012  
Director of Group Accommodations, 2005-2008  
Director of Sabbaticals, 2007-2008  
Seminary Vice Rector, 2008-2012  
Interim Manager/Summer Conference Director, *One Bread, One Cup*, 2008-2012

### Parish, Diocesan, and Chaplaincy Ministry

Associate Pastor – St. Benedict Parish, Evansville, IN, 1994-1995  
Occasional Parish Weekend Assistance, 1995-2012  
Chaplain – Benedictine Sisters of Virginia & Linton Hall School, Bristow, VA,  
1999-2001  
Commuting Chaplain – Monastery Immaculate Conception, 2002, 2006-2007  
Pastor: St. Mary's Parish, Huntingburg, IN 2012-2013  
Rector/Pastor: St. Benedict Cathedral, Evansville, IN 2013-2022  
Priest Delegate, Reitz Memorial High School, Evansville, IN 2017-2022  
Vicar Forane, South Deanery, Diocese of Evansville, 2018-2022  
Rector/Pastor: St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, IL 2022-  
Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of Belleville 2022-

Pastor: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church 2023-2025  
Pastor: Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church 2023-2025  
Vicar General, Diocese of Belleville 2025  
Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Belleville 2025-  
Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Belleville 2025-

Other Responsibilities

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Doctoral Studies – The Catholic University of America, 1997-2001  
Editor, *Monastic Liturgy Forum Newsletter*, 2002-2012  
National Speaker, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Augusta, Georgia, 2017-  
Stewardship Retreat Leader, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Augusta,  
Georgia, 2017-  
Member of the Board of Directors: Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis,  
IL 2024-