

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The Diocese of Charleston Plans to Establish a New Parish on Daniel Island

The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop of Charleston, has announced a new Catholic Church will soon be established on Daniel Island. "I am excited about and look forward to establishing the newest parish in the diocese," said Bishop Guglielmone. "The Catholic population continues to grow in the Daniel Island, Mount Pleasant and Charleston areas. It is important that we, as Church, do everything we can to serve the ever increasing number of Catholics by providing a place for the Faithful to grow in their spirituality, to receive the sacraments, and to build a supportive and strong community."

Father H. Gregory West, a priest of the Diocese of Charleston for 23 years, will be the founding pastor of the parish. This is the third time he has undertaken such a project. A native of Sullivan's Island and an alumnus of Bishop England High School, Father West says he plans on meeting with his future parishioners sometime in March to listen to their needs and desires for the new parish, including its name. "This is an important time for the Catholic Church in South Carolina because of the growth of the faith, particularly on Daniel Island," said Father West. "I depart from the wonderful people of St. Paul the Apostle and St. Francis with great sadness but I look forward to the joys ahead that I will share with the families of the Daniel Island area."

There has been an interest in launching a Catholic Church on Daniel Island for some time. The Good Shepherd Club, a group of Daniel Island area Catholics, was formed in January 2012 to foster spiritual and social activities in anticipation that a parish eventually would be created.

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Discussions and plans for developing a parish campus will unfold in the next several months, as will the date for the new parish's first Mass.

## **About the Diocese of Charleston**

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston comprises the entire state of South Carolina with Charleston as its See city. Founded in 1820 by Pope Pius VII, it is one of the oldest Catholic dioceses in the United States.

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