



NEWS RELEASE

DIOCESE OF ERIE

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**Pope Francis appoints Msgr. Edward M. Lohse
as fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Pope Francis has appointed Msgr. Edward M. Lohse, 61, vicar general of the Diocese of Erie and pastor of St. Julia Parish, Erie, as the fifth bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The appointment was announced today by the Holy See at noon (6 am EST).

A news conference introducing Bishop-elect Lohse in the Diocese of Kalamazoo will be available this morning at 10 am at www.diokzoo.org. The ordination and installation of the new bishop is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

“As a diocese, we rejoice at this honor for one of our fine priests,” the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, said in a statement this morning. “It is a testament to the clergy of the Diocese of Erie. Although it is difficult to lose one of our priests who has served with great faith, wisdom and hope, we rejoice with the church of Kalamazoo on their new shepherd.”

Bishop-elect Lohse will succeed Bishop Paul Bradley, who, as required by church law, submitted his resignation to the Holy Father when he turned 75, in October 2020. Bishop Bradley has served the diocese since June 5, 2009, and will continue as apostolic administrator until Bishop-elect Lohse’s ordination.

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“With thanksgiving to our loving God and with deep gratitude to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our diocese’s wait for our new shepherd has yielded a wonderful gift in the selection of Bishop-elect Edward M. Lohse as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo,” Bishop Bradley said in sharing the news. “We welcome him with open arms and hearts filled with joy. May he walk with us, teaching us and leading us in the ways of hope-filled disciples of our Risen Lord.”

Bishop-elect Lohse and Bishop Lawrence Persico will be available for interviews at St. Mark Catholic Center, Erie, on Wednesday, May 24 at 1 pm.

Biography of Bishop-elect Edward M. Lohse

The Most Rev. Edward Mark Lohse, JCD, was born in Erie, Pa., on November 23, 1961. He is the son of the late Edward L. and the late Ida E. (Dedrick) Lohse, and the sixth of seven children in the family.

He grew up in McKean, just outside of Erie, where his family belonged to St. Francis Xavier Parish. He attended Our Lady of Peace Elementary School in Erie and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School, also in Erie, in 1980. He studied for the priesthood first at St. Mark Seminary while attending Gannon University in Erie, where he earned his BA in history *summa cum laude*, in 1984. He then received a Masters of Divinity at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., graduating with highest honors in 1987, before completing his studies for the priesthood there a year later.

He was ordained a deacon at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Corry, Pa., on October 22, 1988. He served in the same parish as a seminarian, a deacon and then as parochial vicar between 1987 and 1990. He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop Michael J. Murphy on April 21, 1989, at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Early in his priesthood, he was assigned to the faculty and Campus Ministry Office of DuBois Central Catholic Middle and High School in DuBois, Pa., serving there from 1990 to 1995. During that time, he also was an adjunct faculty member for Gannon University. In 1995 he was appointed as vocation director for the Diocese of Erie, a position he held for five years, and which he held again from 2002 to 2010. During the time between those two assignments, Bishop-elect Lohse studied canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, earning his licentiate in canon law, *summa cum laude*, in 2002.

At the same time, he became involved with broader administrative duties for the Diocese of Erie through his appointment as assistant chancellor from 2001-2002, vice-chancellor from 2002-2007 and chancellor from 2007 to 2010.

His path took a significant turn when the Holy See appointed him as an official of the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome, Italy, an assignment that lasted from 2010 through 2015. While in Rome, he also became an adjunct faculty member at the Pontifical North American College and studied for his doctoral degree in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He received the degree, *summa cum laude*, in 2016.

He returned to Erie at the end of 2015, having just been named by Pope Francis as a Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title of Monsignor. Bishop Lawrence Persico appointed him episcopal vicar for canonical services for the Diocese of Erie in 2016, a position he held for one year before being named director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, moderator of the *Curia* and vicar general, all in 2017. He has held those three positions until the present. His latest additional assignment has been as pastor of St. Julia Parish in Erie since 2022.

Bishop-elect Lohse was a member of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors for 13 years between 1995 and 2010. He continues to hold membership in the Canon Law Society of America, the Gannon University Board of Trustees and the Eastern Regional Conference of Canonists. He also served on the St. Vincent Seminary Board of Regents in Latrobe from 2003 to 2010.

He is the author of numerous articles for professional journals and periodicals on topics ranging from canon law to the priesthood. His doctoral dissertation, *Restricting the Right of the Faithful to Enter a Church for Divine Worship: Law and Jurisprudence*, was published by the Gregorian University. He received the Msgr. James F. Murphy Award for Excellence in Philosophy from Gannon University in 1984 and the *Diakonia* Award for service from St. Vincent Seminary in 1987. In 2010, St. Vincent Seminary awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, and six years later, named him an Alumnus of Distinction.

In his spare time, the bishop-elect includes gardening, traveling and enjoying the outdoors among his interests. He has continued to enjoy maintaining his family's farm in McKean, where he grows everything from apples, peaches and cherries to grapes, berries and rhubarb. He even keeps the vintage tractor running in fine shape.

Bishop-elect Lohse was named the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, by Pope Francis on May 23, 2023. He will be ordained and installed as bishop at a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Augustine in Kalamazoo on July 25, 2023.

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