



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

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## **Diocesan Priest Named Dean of Men for Pontifical Seminary Southwest Michigan native Msgr. Michael Osborn selected for key position at Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio**

**KALAMAZOO, Mich.:** January 8, 2010: Monsignor Michael Osborn, a priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo and pastor of St. Joseph parish, St. Joseph, has been appointed Dean of Men for the School of Theology for the Pontifical College Josephinum. The appointment was made by Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Pietro Sambi. Msgr. Osborn has been released for service by Bishop Paul J. Bradley and will begin his new position on January 18, 2010.

"This is indeed an honor for both Msgr. Osborn and the entire Diocese of Kalamazoo as one of our own takes on this important position in the ongoing formation of future priests," said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. "Additionally, our diocese is sacrificing a great talent in the face of our own shortage of priests, however we are especially mindful during this designated Year for Priests of the importance of vocations, and so we release Msgr. Osborn in recognition of our commitment to serve the universal Church and ensure the vitality of our future Church leaders."

In his role as Dean of Men for the School of Theology, Msgr. Osborn will be responsible for implementing the priestly formation program at the pontifical seminary. In addition he will be the spiritual director for the college students and teach courses in Canon Law.

Msgr. Michael Osborn, who spent his childhood in Marshall, Mich., was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo at St. Augustine Cathedral in 1992. He graduated from Marshall High School and received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan. He attended the Pontifical North American College, Rome and graduated with a degree in theology

from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. Msgr. Osborn earned his licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University and his doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical Lateran University. He served in the Holy See working at the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum* where he was named a "Chaplain to His Holiness" with the title Monsignor. His pastoral assignments have included various positions at 11 parishes within the diocese including: parochial vicar, St. Monica's, Kalamazoo; associate pastor, St. Mary, Kalamazoo; and pastor of St. Ann, Augusta. Since 2006 he has been pastor of St. Joseph, St. Joseph. Msgr. Osborn also has held diocesan positions including Director of Vocations, Judicial Vicar, and Promoter of Justice.

"We need good priests who can be exemplary formators for our future priests," said Father James Wehner, rector, The Pontifical College Josephinum. "Monsignor Osborn brings a vast amount of priestly experience to this position and will undoubtedly serve the seminary community well. His energy and enthusiasm will be greeted with much joy by both the faculty and the seminarians."

The Pontifical College Josephinum offers collegian, pre-theology and theologate programs. Over 160 seminarians from 26 dioceses in the United States attend. The seminary also sponsors a formation program during the summer for those preparing for diaconate ordination. [[www.pcj.edu](http://www.pcj.edu) ]

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**The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo** is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and has grown to include 59 parishes as well as 22 Catholic schools. [www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org](http://www.dioceseofkalamazoo.org).