

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Pope Francis Names Reverend Stephen D. Parkes Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah**

*A press conference will be held at 10:00 AM today at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Savannah*

SAVANNAH, GA – July 8, 2020 – This morning, His Holiness Pope Francis announced his appointment of Reverend Stephen D. Parkes to serve as the 15th Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah.

**What:** A live-streamed news conference will be held this morning at 10:00 AM to introduce Bishop-Elect Parkes to the faithful of the diocese and to address questions from the media.

**When:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Where:** Catholic Pastoral Center (Boland Hall), 2170 East Victory Dr., Savannah, GA 31404

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Pastoral Center remains closed to the general public and only members of the media and pastoral center staff will be admitted to the press conference.**

“Today, Pope Francis has honored the Diocese of Savannah with the gift of our 15th bishop,” said the Very Reverend Daniel F. Firmin, Diocesan Administrator. “How fortunate we are to welcome a seasoned and gifted pastor! In his 22 years of priestly ministry, he has served in parishes, directed souls, and was the campus minister at the University of Central Florida for nearly a decade. His pastoral zeal and concern are immediately evident when meeting him.”

Bishop-Elect Parkes’ Episcopal Ordination will occur at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Savannah on Wednesday, September 23rd. Further information will forthcoming.

For a link to a live stream of the today’s press conference and for more information on Bishop-Elect Parkes, visit [www.diosav.org](http://www.diosav.org).

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