



*The Episcopal Installation
of
The Most Reverend Robert Barron*

Friday, July 29, 2022 | 10:30 a.m.
Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

Media Kit



Biography

Bishop Robert Barron is an acclaimed author, speaker, and theologian. He is also the founder of the global media ministry Word on Fire, which reaches millions of people by utilizing the tools of new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic Faith. Francis Cardinal George has described him as “one of the Church’s best messengers.”

On July 21, 2015, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Barron to be Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He was ordained bishop on September 8, 2015. On Thursday, June 2, 2022, at noon Rome time, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Robert Barron the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester (Minnesota).

Bishop Barron is the creator and host of CATHOLICISM, a groundbreaking, award-winning documentary series about the Catholic Faith. The series has aired on hundreds of PBS stations across the world and has been used by parishes, universities, and schools as an essential resource. Since then, Bishop Barron and Word on Fire also released the follow-up documentary CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players series on the mystics, scholars, artists, and saints who shaped the Church and changed the world. The first volume of the series debuted in September 2016 and was syndicated for national television and nominated for an Emmy award.

Bishop Barron has created many other films and study programs including:

- The Creed
- The Mass
- David the King
- The Mystery of God
- Priest, Prophet, King
- Conversion
- Eucharist
- Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues
- Untold Blessing

Bishop Barron's website, WordOnFire.org, reaches millions of people each year. The site hosts daily articles, weekly articles and video commentaries, and an extensive audio archive of over 500 homilies. Bishop Barron's homilies are heard by tens of thousands of listeners each week. His regular YouTube videos have been viewed over 30 million times, and over 350,000 people receive his daily email reflections. Episodes of his podcast/radio show, *The Word on Fire Show*, have been downloaded over four million times.

Bishop Barron is one of the most-followed Catholics in the world on social media. His work has garnered:

3.1 million Facebook fans (<https://facebook.com/BishopRobertBarron>)

518,000 YouTube subscribers (<https://youtube.com/user/wordonfirevideo>)

199,000 Twitter followers (<https://twitter.com/BishopBarron>)

Bishop Barron has produced over 400 online video commentaries. His productions include brief and lively theological reviews of contemporary culture, including movies, books, music, current events, and more.

EWTN (The Eternal Word Television Network) and CatholicTV broadcast Bishop Barron's videos and documentaries to a worldwide audience of over 150 million people. His weekly homilies and podcasts air on multiple radio stations to millions of listeners.

Bishop Barron has been invited to speak about religion at the headquarters of both Facebook and Google. He has keynoted many conferences and events all over the world, including the 2016 World Youth Day in Kraków and the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which marked Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States.

Bishop Barron works with NBC News in New York as an on-air contributor and analyst. He is also a frequent commentator for the Chicago Tribune, FOX News, CNN, EWTN, *Our Sunday Visitor*, the Catholic Herald in London, and Catholic News Agency.

He has published numerous essays and articles on theology and the spiritual life, which appear frequently online and in numerous journals. He is a #1 Amazon bestselling author and has published many books, including:

Light from Light: A Theological Reflection on the Nicene Creed (Word on Fire, 2021)

Proclaiming the Power of Christ (Word on Fire, 2021)

The Rosary (Word on Fire, 2021)

Renewing Our Hope: Essays for the New Evangelization (Catholic University of America Press, 2020)

The Pivotal Players: 12 Heroes Who Shaped the Church and Changed the World (Word on Fire, 2020)

Centered: The Spirituality of Word on Fire (Word on Fire, 2020)

Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis (Word on Fire, 2019)

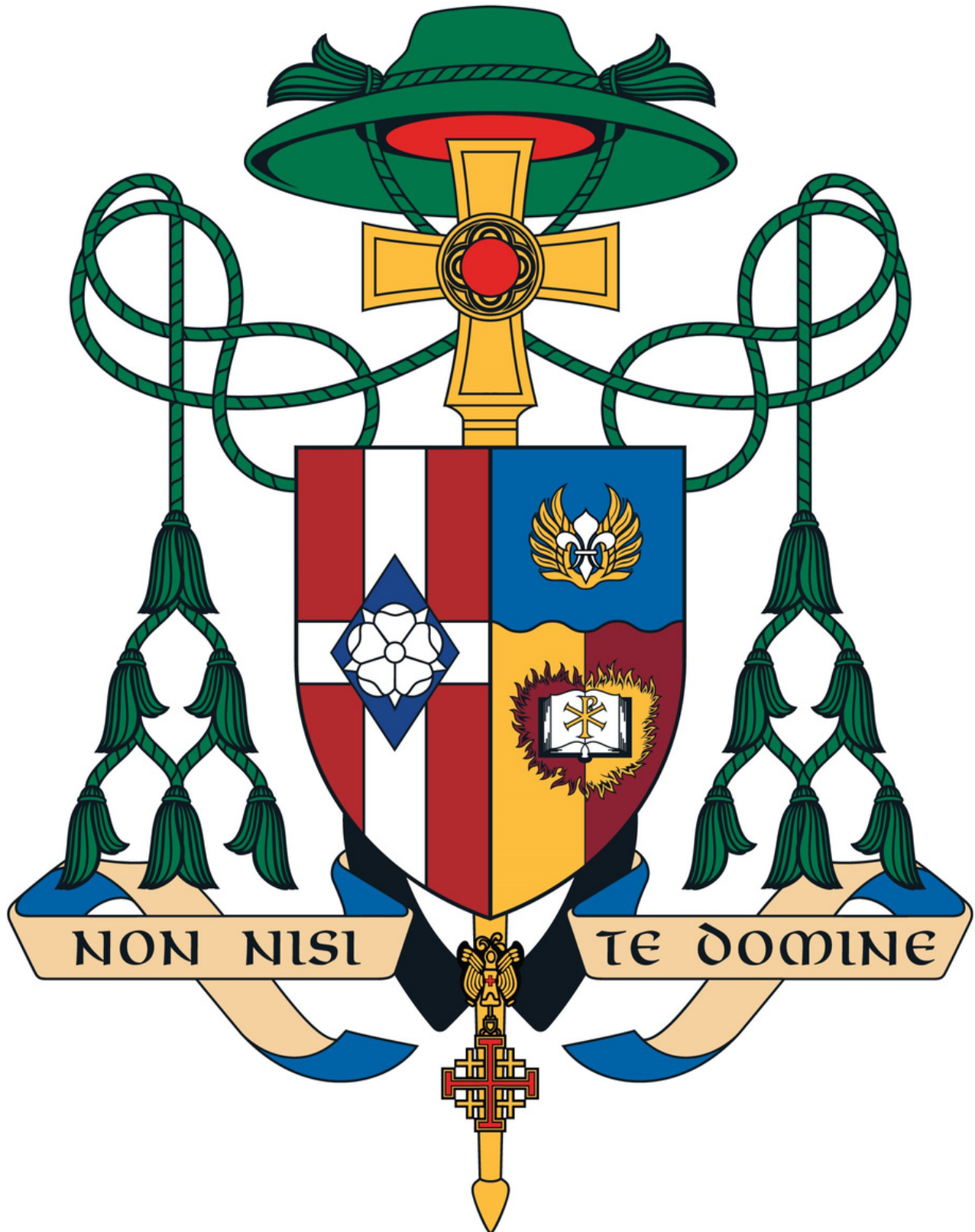
Arguing Religion: A Bishop Speaks at Facebook and Google (Word on Fire, 2018)
To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age (Image, 2017)
Vibrant Paradoxes: The Both/And of Catholicism (Word on Fire, 2016)
Exploring Catholic Theology: Essays on God, Liturgy, and Evangelization (Baker Academic, 2015)
Seeds of the Word: Finding God in the Culture (Word on Fire, 2015)
2 Samuel (Brazos, 2015)
Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith (Image, 2011)
Eucharist (Orbis, 2008)
Word on Fire: Proclaiming the Power of Christ (Crossroad, 2008)
The Priority of Christ: Toward a Post-Liberal Catholicism (Brazos, 2007)
Bridging the Great Divide: Musings of a Post-Liberal, Post-Conservative, Evangelical Catholic (Sheed & Ward, 2004)
The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path (Orbis, 2002)
Heaven in Stone and Glass: Experiencing the Spirituality of the Great Cathedrals (Crossroad, 2000)
And Now I See: A Theology of Transformation (Crossroad, 1998)
Thomas Aquinas: Spiritual Master (Crossroad, 1996)
A Study of the De potentia of Thomas Aquinas in Light of the Dogmatik of Paul Tillich (Edwin Mellen Press, 1993)

Bishop Barron's advanced degrees include:

Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, Assumption College
Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa, Saint Anselm College
Doctor of Sacred Theology, Honoris Causa, Dominican House of Studies
Doctor of Religious Education, Honoris Causa, Providence College
Doctor of Humanities, Honoris Causa, Lewis University

Bishop Robert Barron's

Coat of Arms



About the Coat of Arms

The top portion of the shield is known properly as the chief. On Bishop Barron's shield the chief appears like a bar of blue across the top of a fuller shield below. The charge (emblem) is a combination of the Fleur de Lys for the Blessed Virgin Mary and a pair of angel's wings on a blue chief; blue being the color reserved for Our Lady and also the color of the Pacific Ocean that forms one of the borders of the church and region. The Fleur de Lys is rendered in silver (which is always rendered as white in heraldry as real silver tarnishes), the wings of gold. Gold and silver are the Divine Attributes, perfect and pure in every way.

Bishop Barron's shield shape is known as the 'heater shield' and it is this style which the seal of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary has used from its creation. And so the shield shape in the Barron design is an homage to Mundelein.

The wavy line that separates the Our Lady of the Angels Chief and the base of his coat of arms is symbolic of the gently rolling waters of the River Seine, a reference to Paris and the Institut Catholique de Paris, where the Bishop studied for a time.

The open book is an emblem referring to Saint Thomas Aquinas, doctor of the church. This book has flames emanating from it on all sides, in a mirrored effect. The flames represent Truth as we know it from the Word of God and, by counterchanging them, symbolically reinforces the two natures of Jesus Christ—fully God and fully man. The flames are also symbolic to

“Word on Fire” ministries which Bishop Barron founded. Upon this open book appears the Christological Monogram, the Chi Rho. This emblem surmounted on the open book proclaims Jesus the Christ as Lord.

The Motto is found on the banderole (motto ribbon) in four simple yet powerful words: NON NISI TE DOMINE, which translates into English as “Only You, Lord,” which was the historic response of St. Thomas Aquinas when a voice from the crucifix asked him what he wanted as a reward for his great teaching.

Surmounting the shield of bishops is the pilgrim's hat, the heraldic emblem for all prelates and priests of the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Behind Bishop Barron's coat of arms is found the episcopal cross, worked in gold, and bearing a blood red capuchin ruby. This red stone is set in a gothic pattern that resembles the outline of a rose window of a great French church, mainly intended to pay homage to Bishop Barron's devotion to Saint Thérèse.

At the base of the shield is found the staff of the episcopal cross and atop it is found the insignia of a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the rank of knight; a rank held by Bishop Robert E. Barron at the time of his consecration.

Overall, Bishop Barron's coat of arms has remained faithful to the style of Church heraldry originally developed in the Middle Ages.

About the Diocese of Winona-Rochester

In 1680, the first Catholic missionary, a Jesuit, arrived in southern Minnesota to minister to the original people of the area and the new European settlers. Early priest-missionaries spoke their native European language and Latin but also learned English and Lakota to invite local residents into the faith. Father Ravoux was the one who published the first catechism in the language of the first people of Minnesota, Dakota (Sioux), entitled, *Wikantanka Ti ki Chanku* (The Path to the House of God). He led the Sioux people regularly in Catholic devotional prayer in their language.

The Minnesota territory had become part of the Diocese of St. Louis, MO in 1826, but later (1837) the Pope rearranged the territory so that southern Minnesota became part of the Diocese of Dubuque, IA. The Bishop of Dubuque, Mathias Loras, sent Father Lucien Galtier to Minnesota where he offered the first Mass recorded for the Diocese of Winona along the running waters of the Mississippi in Wabasha, MN.

Missionary priests worked with Catholic settlers from Ireland, Germany, the Czech region, and Poland. Historians recorded a large influx of immigrants in the area between the time the region was a territory of the USA (1849) until statehood (1858). In nine short years, settlements and churches sprang up along the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

In the meantime, Rome formed the Diocese of St. Paul. In July of 1850, Father Joseph Cretin became the first bishop of St. Paul, MN. Population was growing throughout the diocesan territories, which included the areas of present day Minnesota, North Dakota, South

Dakota, a portion of Wisconsin, and stretching into the Western territories up to the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

German Catholics moved in from St. Charles, MO, arriving along the fertile land bordering the Minnesota River Valley. At the bend of the river, they established a new village with a Dakota name - Mankato - meaning blue-colored clay of the riverbed. The people founded the second parish in the diocese -- Saints Peter and Paul -- with Father Valentine Sommereisen as the first resident priest in the diocese. Father Sommereisen arrived in Mankato in 1856 and by 1865, he and the bishop called for the help of the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee to meet the educational needs of the growing river city. The Notre Dame Sisters opened the first parochial school in southern Minnesota.

In 1877, coadjutor Bishop John Ireland of St. Paul contracted with railroad baron, James J. Hill, for over 100,000 acres of land in southwestern Minnesota. Through newspapers and fliers, he recruited poor Irish and German farmers to settle the rich land. He assembled a committee in St. Paul to distribute the land. This committee drew up contracts with no down payment, interest paid the second year, and payment on the land required in the third year. The coadjutor's loftier goal was to settle the pristine land with Catholics.

By 1888, the Pope named the diocese a province and appointed its coadjutor bishop, John Ireland, Archbishop of the new Archdiocese of St. Paul, MN. Minnesota now had smaller dioceses, one of which was the Diocese of Winona.

Father Joseph B. Cotter, a friend of Archbishop John Ireland, and pastor of the Church of St. Thomas in the city of Winona, was appointed the first bishop of the new Diocese of Winona. He was ordained a bishop on December 27, 1889 in the Cathedral at St. Paul. Ten days later he was installed in the pro-cathedral of St. Thomas, Winona, MN.

The Sisters of Saint Francis of the Congregation of our Lady of Lourdes heeded the call to the Diocese of Winona. Mother Alfred Moes moved the Franciscan sisters from Owatonna to Rochester and after the deadly twister in 1882, Mother Alfred called for a hospital in Rochester and offered to build and staff it. She enlisted physicians William and Charles Mayo to take charge of the diagnostic and surgical needs. The Doctors Mayo and the Sisters of St. Francis opened the doors of the famous Mayo Clinic on September 30, 1889. The sisters also opened the Winona Seminary for Ladies in 1894, which eventually became the College of St Teresa (closed almost 100 years later).

The Brothers of Christian Schools were invited to open the diocese's first high school, Cotter High School, in Winona, named after Bishop Heffron's predecessor, Bishop Cotter, the first bishop of the diocese. The school was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day in 1911 and two years later, September of 1913, Bishop Heffron established St Mary's College (now Saint Mary's University). In 1933 the Christian Brothers took charge of the administration and staffing of the college.

Between 1933 and 1948, Saint Mary's College provided training for future priests, brothers, and laymen. In 1948, Bishop Leo Binz engaged the people of the diocese to build Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary on the campus of St. Mary's College. The seminary was completed in 1951. Catholic

leaders molded the foundation of Catholic education and formation for generations to come.

In the first days of Bishop Cotter's term (1889), there were 45 diocesan priests, 4 religious, 109 parishes/missions, and 19 parish schools. By 1909 when Bishop Cotter died, there were 85 diocesan priests and 7 religious, 124 parishes/missions and 28 parish schools.

Today, there are 99 parishes/missions, 84 priests, 298 sisters, 15 brothers, 3 consecrated virgins, 37 deacons, and over 136,000- Catholics. There are 23 Catholic Schools and a Catholic university for women and men, St. Mary's University. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester covers 13,000 square miles of the southern 20 counties of Minnesota. The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona (built 1952; renovated 2008) is the home parish of the diocesan bishop and houses the bishop's chair, called the "cathedra." Bishop Bernard Harrington was installed in the "cathedra" as the seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Winona on January 6, 1999.

On October 15, 2008 Bishop John M. Quinn was appointed as Coadjutor Bishop of Winona.

On 23 January 2018, by virtue of a decree from the Congregation for Bishops, the diocese was renamed the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, and the parish of St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, Minnesota, was raised to the dignity of a co-cathedral.

On Thursday, June 2, 2022, the Holy See announced that Pope Francis had appointed the Most Rev. Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. Bishop Robert Barron is scheduled to be installed on July 29, 2022 at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, MN.