



THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

# Information on the Ordination of Bishop-Elect Lopes



**On Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015, Pope Francis named the Rev. Monsignor Steven J. Lopes of California to be the first bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.**

Bishop-elect Lopes is the first bishop to be named for any of the three Personal Ordinariates in the world.

All the clergy and faithful are warmly encouraged to attend the historic Ordination of Bishop-elect Lopes, which is planned for Feb. 2, 2016 in Houston, Texas.

## Why did the Holy Father name a bishop for the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter?

Pope Francis desired to affirm and amplify Pope Benedict's vision for Christian unity, in which diverse expressions of one faith are joined together in full communion in the Church. In nominating a bishop for the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, Pope Francis underscores the vision of *Anglicanorum coetibus* and gives the Ordinariate a firm foundation for its growth and development. By naming Bishop-elect Lopes, the Pope has confirmed the Ordinariate is a permanent, enduring part of the Catholic Church, like any other diocese — one that is now given a bishop so that it may deepen its contribution to life of the Church and the World.

The pope's generous expression of care, coupled with the Vatican's recent approval and promulgation of *Divine Worship: The Missal*, confirms the Ordinariate's lasting place in the Catholic Church.

## Who is our new bishop?

Bishop-elect Lopes is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Until his appointment as our bishop, he was serving as an official of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office responsible for promoting and preserving Catholic teaching. His duties at the Vatican most recently included serving as executive coordinator of the *Anglicanae traditiones* Interdicasterial Commission, the group that guided the development of the new texts for the celebration of Mass in the Ordinariates.

## When is the Ordination of Bishop-elect Lopes?

The Ordination is planned for Feb. 2, 2016 in Houston, Texas.

## Who may attend the Mass of Ordination?

Everyone is welcome to attend the Ordination Mass and festivities! All are invited to be part of the day of worship and related events to mark this milestone in the life of the Ordinariate. **Every parish and community is encouraged to send representatives to this historic celebration!**

A schedule of events surrounding the Mass of Ordination will soon be available at [www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes](http://www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes).

## If I plan to attend the Mass of Ordination, where should I stay during my visit?

The Ordinariate will have information on blocks of hotel rooms in the coming weeks. Please visit [www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes](http://www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes) for more information in the near future.

## With this papal appointment, what happens to our first Ordinary, Msgr. Jeffrey N. Steenson?

Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson's retirement as Ordinary is effective on Nov. 24. However, Msgr. Steenson has been appointed Administrator of the Ordinariate and will continue to oversee its day-to-day activities until Feb. 2, 2016.

## When does Bishop-elect Lopes' ministry as bishop begin?

Since his appointment on Nov. 24, the new bishop-elect has already begun some administrative duties for the Ordinariate. However, he will officially take canonical possession of the Ordinariate on Feb. 2, 2016.

## When will Bishop-elect Lopes move to the United States?

Bishop-elect Lopes has started his transition to the U.S. this month. After celebrating Mass using *Divine Worship: The Missal* on the first Sunday of Advent in Houston, he will return to Rome to finish his ministry at the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith and then return to Texas at the end of the calendar year.

## Where will our new bishop reside and work?

Bishop-elect Lopes will live in Houston, Texas and work at the Chancery offices of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. He will frequently be on the road, visiting the Ordinariate's parishes and communities across the U.S. and Canada, so that he may come to know the people and clergy of his diocese.

## Who should be named in the Eucharistic Prayer before Feb. 2?

Please pray for Francis, our pope, and Jeffrey, our administrator.

## Who should be named in the Eucharistic Prayer after Feb. 2?

Please pray for Francis, our pope, and Steven, our bishop.

## When will I have the opportunity to meet the new bishop?

The Feb. 2 Mass of Ordination will be the first public opportunity for the faithful and clergy of the Ordinariate to meet their new bishop.

Bishop-elect Lopes will also make every effort to travel to many of our parishes and communities during his inaugural year as bishop.

## Where can I learn more information?

Visit [www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes](http://www.ordinariate.net/bishop-elect-lopes).