



Photo: Freepik



New Year 2026 and a New Shepherd for the Archdiocese of New York

Bishop Hicks expresses his heartfelt gratitude to Pope Leo XIV for his appointment, and appointed him as someone who dedicated a portion of his priesthood to serving in Latin America. He shows his deep affinity with the Holy Father and a tremendous respect and confidence in his leadership.

He is grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, our Apostolic Nuncio, for his trust that he's place in him. When the Apostolic Nuncio called Bishop Hicks to share his appointment, he told him that simply he wants to do God's Will. He asked him to tell the Holy Father that he says "Yes" with great humility and he accepts this appointment with an open heart.

Cardinal Dolan said that Bishop Hicks has been in an array and abundance of priestly ministry from parish

Bishop Ronald Aldon Hicks was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 4, 1967. On July 3rd, 2018 he was appointed by Pope Francis as Titular Bishop of Munziana and Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. On July 17, 2020, he was appointed as Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois.

Bishop Ronald Aldon Hicks was appointed by Pope Leo XIV on December 18, 2025 as a new Archbishop to succeed Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Both are the natives of Chicago, Illinois.

Bishop Hicks Installation is scheduled for February 6, 2026, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

Bishop Hicks' parents, Ron and Roselee Hicks are retired high school teachers. They raised him and his brother in the South Suburbs of Chicago in South Holland, Illinois, which is next door to Dalton. Dalton is where Pope Leo XIV grew up and is from. Their houses are literally 14 blocks away from each other. His background is a combination of Irish, German and Polish. He spent a lot of time living in Latin America in Mexico and in El Salvador and working all throughout Central America.



work to Catholic schools, seminary work, diocese of Chicago which is the third largest Archdiocese in the country after New York. Bishop Hicks said that he loves the people from all over the world who call New York home.

During his five years in Chicago, he felt happy, grateful and blessed to be their Bishop. Together they have worked with some missionary zeal to catechize, to evangelize and to put their faith into action as disciples who make disciples.

Bishop Hicks highly respects our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. He loves his focus on keeping the mission of the church at the center. The first writing he put out on the poor and our need to really be a church that accompanies the poor and the marginalized and everyone together. In Joliet, Bishop Hicks released a pastoral letter in October, it comes from the gospel where Jesus tells his disciples and he tells us to go out and make disciples, it's an effort of evangelization. He wants a church that is thriving, that

is growing, that's alive, that's relevant, and we do it all in the name of Jesus.

He is grateful to Cardinal Timothy Dolan for his extraordinary dedication and leadership in the Archdiocese of New York. In a truly magnanimous spirit, Archbishop Dolan said to him: "Ron, I want you to do well here and you have all my support". Bishop Hicks hopes that as a church, we can listen, discern, as we move forward in hope. Bishop Hicks boldly expresses his faith publicly and said his final words at the press conference: "I love Jesus with my mind, heart and soul. And I strive to love my neighbor as myself. My desire is to be obedient to the Holy Spirit to do the will of God, serving with a Shepherd's heart. I trust and I surrender my life and my will to God. And with great humility, I accept this appointment. I ask for your support as we take these next steps together, And with great gratitude, I ask God to bless us today and always".

Edited by Missionary Sisters of Saint Peter Claver



Photos: Chicago Catholic

Priest reported missing



KAMPALA

The Uganda Catholic Lawyers Society (UCLS) has denounced the arrest of Rev. Fr. Deusdedit Ssekabira, a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Masaka, who had been missing since December 3, as

a violation of the constitution and a disregard for fundamental human rights.

Nearly two weeks after his disappearance, on December 14, the Ugandan Ministry of National Defence issued a statement admitting that Father Ssekabira had been arrested by security forces on charges of participating in “violent subversive activities against the state.” The manner in which the priest was arrested, dragged from an unmarked vehicle by armed individuals, was sharply criticized by the Catholic Lawyers Society. “The use of unmarked vehicles, unidentified officers, secret detention facilities, and the delayed announcement of detention are clear indicators of unconstitutional security practices that undermine the rule of law,” the UCLS states. “For ten days, the priest’s whereabouts were concealed, his family, his Diocese, and his legal representatives denied access, and the law rendered silent. This amounted to an enforced disappearance, a practice expressly prohibited under Uganda’s Constitution, domestic law, and binding international human-rights obligations.”

Furthermore, the UCLS emphasizes that “allegations of subversive activities do not override constitutional guarantees, and potential security threats cannot justify abduction, secrecy, or denial of a fair trial.”

According to the 1995 Ugandan Constitution, a detained person must be brought before a court or released on bail within 48 hours.

Agenzia Fides

Morogoro, TANZANIA

We completed making furniture for all new rooms at De Paul Seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania. Your generous support brought happiness as the Seminarians are able to live in a healthy and clean building that helps them to study better and to minister to those in need. We were able to purchase also 44 bicycles for our ministries and for the Seminary. The bicycles continue to help us to provide better transport in various mission outreach, including seminarians attending priestly formation and to visit the elderly and orphanages centers.



On behalf of all the Vincentian confreres and the Seminarians here in our Region, I thank you for supporting us with Bicycles and the furniture which helps not only to provide better and conducive atmosphere in the seminary but to make known God’s Kingdom wherever we are sent to bring his message of love, hope and mercy to all.

I assure that we will remember you and all your benefactors, so that the Good Lord will continue to shower many more blessings on you.

Fr. Yuda Stephen Lyimo, CM, Regional Superior

Morogoro, Tanzania

Can You Help?

A great need for a Generator

Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver

We are Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, working in the Diocese of Kundiawa and Wewak since 1988. Our service in the Church of Papua New Guinea in the two dioceses where we work, is in the realm of Education, Health care and Pastoral/Social work. Through these ministries we focus on empowerment of women, children and the poor.

Papua New Guinea is a Christian country in Oceania, with a population of 10.5 million, 30% are Catholics, which is the largest single religious group in the Island.

On behalf of the SMMI Sisters in Papua New Guinea, I request for your kind assistance to purchase a new Generator that would assist our communities in our various ministries. We depend on generator power as very often we experience power cut from electricity connection.

Over the past years, a 6 KVA Generator which was donated by the diocese has been helping the community to supply power when the Electricity from town fails. Now, it needs a major repair and it does not supply enough power for our convents, classrooms for faith formation for children and the training center.

Thanking you sincerely for all your continued and valuable assistance and support for the mission and in return for your kind consideration of our request, we assure you our prayers.

*Sr. Vincy George,
Regional Superior
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of Mary Immaculate
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Enclosed is \$ my gift for a new generator for Salesian Sisters in Papua New Guinea

1/2026

Please remember the following intentions in your prayers:

Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss)

Address:

Zip Code Phone E-mail: