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May 30, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media

From: Renée Underwood, runderwood@catholiclubbock.org 806-792-3943

Re: **Noted Theologian, Canon Lawyer to Address Legal Community at October 6 Judicial Red Mass**

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, bishop, lawyer, author, marathon runner and advocate for legal services for the poor, will serve as keynote speaker at the Fourteenth Annual Judicial Red Mass for the Diocese of Lubbock on October 6, 2014, marking the official opening of the judicial year. The announcement was made by Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County Commissioner and chair of the event.

Open to people of all faith traditions who have a concern for peace and justice for all, the Red Mass is sponsored by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock and will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Christ the King Cathedral, 4011 54th Street.

Bishop Paprocki was installed as the ninth Bishop of Springfield (IL) in 2010. Since his early days as a parish priest Paprocki has fought for the right for the poor to have access to legal services, having founded the South Chicago legal clinic and the Caritas Legal Clinic in Springfield last fall. Bishop Paprocki is Adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty for which he coined the phrase "Fortnight for Freedom," a campaign of the American bishops on behalf of religious liberty.

The Red Mass is a centuries' old tradition that started in England in which judges, lawyers, public officials, law faculty members, members of their administrative staffs and anyone in the community with a concern for justice to call upon the supreme law giver, God, for his blessings for the administration of justice and for those whose duty is to teach, judge, and resolve legal matters.

The Most Reverend Plácido Rodríguez, CMF, Bishop of Lubbock, will serve as the principal celebrant for the Red Mass. Those in the entrance processional may include members of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, federal, state, county and municipal judges from the 25 counties in the Diocese of Lubbock, elected officials, priests and deacons from the diocese, and by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the Serra Club and the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

A reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will follow at Bishop Plácido Rodríguez Hall. Dress is business attire with red accents for both men and women.

The event is open to the public, including non-Catholics and all who have a concern for justice.

More information is available at www.catholicfoundationlubbock.org or by calling (806) 792-3943, extension 206.

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About Bishop Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki is Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield (IL). He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1978. After ordination, he studied law at DePaul University College of Law and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1981. Working as a parish priest at St. Michael Church in South Chicago, a neighborhood with high unemployment due to shutdowns of the local steel mills, Fr. Paprocki co-founded the South Chicago Legal Clinic to help answer the need for legal services for the poor. He still serves in a volunteer capacity as President of the organization, now called the Chicago Legal Clinic.

In November, 1985, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin appointed Fr. Paprocki Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago and in 1987 sent him to do post-graduate studies in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He completed his doctoral degree in 1991. Father Paprocki then returned to his previous position in Chicago as Vice-Chancellor and was appointed Chancellor in March, 1992, serving in that capacity under Cardinal Bernardin and then under Cardinal Francis George, following Cardinal Bernardin's death in 1996.

Concluding his service as Chancellor after two terms in office in June, 2000, Father Paprocki studied Polish language and culture at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. In January 2001, he was appointed Pastor of St. Constance Parish, serving primarily a large immigrant community from Poland on the northwest side of Chicago. Pope John Paul II appointed him to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago on January 24, 2003. Cardinal George named him Liaison for Health and Hospital Affairs in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Bishop Paprocki was elected Vice-President of the Illinois Catholic Health Association and Vice-Chairman of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. Bishop Paprocki is Adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance as well as the Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty. In addition to English, he speaks Polish, Spanish and Italian, and he reads Latin. On June 22, 2010, Bishop Paprocki was installed the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. In May 2013 he received his Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop Paprocki's hobbies are reading, running and playing hockey. He has run nineteen marathons: Chicago (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002 and 2005), Columbus, Ohio (1998), Boston (1998), Rome (2000) Athens (2000), Washington, D.C. (2004 & 2007), Dayton, Ohio (2006), Dublin, Ireland (2008), Minneapolis-St. Paul (2009), Denver (2010), Kansas City (2011) and St. Louis (2012), in the process raising \$367,762.48 for charity.

The Red Mass Tradition

The origin of the Red Mass dates back to 13th century England, during the reign of King Edward I. The Mass was celebrated at Westminster Abbey and served as the official opening of the Judicial Year. It received its name from the fact that the celebrants wore red vestments, and the Lord High Justices were robed in brilliant scarlet.

The Red Mass was first celebrated in the United States in 1928 and today is observed in many cities throughout our country. This Mass promotes the unity of the judiciary and the legal profession.

The first Diocese of Lubbock Red Mass was held in 2001 and has continued to grow in participation and stature with each passing year.

Diocese of Lubbock Red Mass Speakers

- 2001 Emilio M. Garza, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- 2002 Wallace B. Jefferson, Justice (now Chief Justice), Texas Supreme Court
- 2003 Anne M Burke, Justice, Illinois Appellate Court (now an Illinois Supreme Court Justice)
- 2004 Alma L. Lopez, Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals
- 2005 Walter Huffman, Dean, Texas Tech University School of Law
- 2006 Jay C. Zainey, Judge, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
- 2007 Jane J. Boyle, Judge, U. S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- 2008 George P. Kazen, Judge, U. S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- 2009 Catherine M. Stone, Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals
- 2010 Ann Crawford McClure, Chief Justice, Eighth Court of Appeals
- 2011 Ronald J. Rychlak, Professor of Law, University of Mississippi School of Law
Guest Homilist Most Reverend Cirilo Flores, DD, JD, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange (now Bishop of San Diego)
- 2012 Sidney Allen Fitzwater Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- 2013 Phil Johnson, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas

About The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock, Inc.

Since its beginnings in Lubbock, The Red Mass has been sponsored by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock. The foundation exists to help Catholics live out the sacred mission of the Church by financially supporting the spiritual, educational and social needs of our Catholic community.

The non-profit organization was first created in 1987 by the Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, D. D., the first Bishop of Lubbock. The foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of both lay and clergy leaders, with a managing director and the whole-hearted endorsement of Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF, Bishop of Lubbock.

In 1998, the Catholic Foundation was incorporated, and has grown to more than \$2.5 million in managed assets through annual memberships, end-of-the-year giving, endowments, annuities, life insurance policies, bequests and investments. It provides more than \$100,000 annually in grants to the ministries of the Diocese of Lubbock, as well as its mission parishes, schools and Catholic organizations. For more information, contact 806-792-3943, ext. 206, or visit www.catholicfoundationlubbock.org.