



**David J. Bonnar**, 58, is a priest of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is the bishop-elect of the Diocese of Youngstown, having been appointed to the position on November 17, 2020 by Pope Francis. He is scheduled to be consecrated and installed on January 12, 2021 at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown.

### **Early life**

Bonnar was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on February 5, 1962. His father worked as a butcher, while his mother was a housewife, and he was the fourth of five children. He studied at Duquesne University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in social communications from that institution in 1984. Starting in 1984, he attended seminary at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He went on to obtain a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. On April 14, 1988, he was ordained to the diaconate at St. Peter's Basilica. Three months later, on July 23, 1988, he was ordained to the Catholic priesthood at the Church of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin in Whitehall, which was his home parish.

### **Presbyteral Ministry**

Bonnar's first pastoral assignment was as parochial vicar of St. Vitus Parish in New Castle. He was then transferred to St. Rosalia Parish in Greenfield four years later. He was parish vicar of St. Thomas More Parish in Bethel Park in 1996, before becoming director of vocations, rector of Saint Paul Seminary and director of the office for permanent deacons the following year. He became a full-fledged pastor at St. Bernard Parish in Mt. Lebanon in 2009, and served there for 11 years. In July 2020, he was appointed pastor of the newly formed St. Aidan's Parish in Wexford.

During his time as parish priest, Bonnar was known for his sociable personality and efforts to revitalize the parishes he was assigned to. A spokesman for the diocese and fellow priest noted how Bonnar "has shown himself to be a wonderful spiritual leader and a very competent administrator". He went into self-quarantine at the end of March 2020, along with other priests who worked in Pittsburgh and South Hills. This was a precautionary measure after one priest in the city tested positive for COVID-19, while another developed a mild case after coming into contact with an individual who was infected with the disease.

In addition to his duties as a parish priest, Bonnar is the editor of a magazine called *The Priest*, a position he took charge of in 2014. He also served as the chaplain of the Pittsburgh Steelers.