

# Bishop Thomas John Paprocki



Bishop Thomas John Paprocki was born on August 5, 1952 in Chicago.

He attended Niles College of Loyola University in Chicago and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein before his ordination on May 10, 1978 in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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, 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, which is now known as the Chicago Legal Clinic.

In November, 1985, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin appointed Fr. Paprocki Vice-Chancellor to assist in the administration of the Archdiocese of Chicago. To further prepare for these responsibilities, in 1987 the Cardinal sent Fr. Paprocki 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. Francis Cardinal George retained Father Paprocki in his position as Chancellor when Cardinal George became the Archbishop of Chicago in 1997, following Cardinal Bernardin's death in 1996.

Pope John Paul II appointed him to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago on January 24, 2003.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Paprocki as Bishop Lucas' successor on April 20, 2010 and on June 22, 2010, Bishop Paprocki was installed the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

*The law of the Heart is Love.*

