

ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE** *of* ALBANY

## PRESS KIT

**HI-RES GRAPHICS & LOGO  
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Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany  
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Albany, NY 12203  
(518) 453-6600  
[rcda.org](http://rcda.org)





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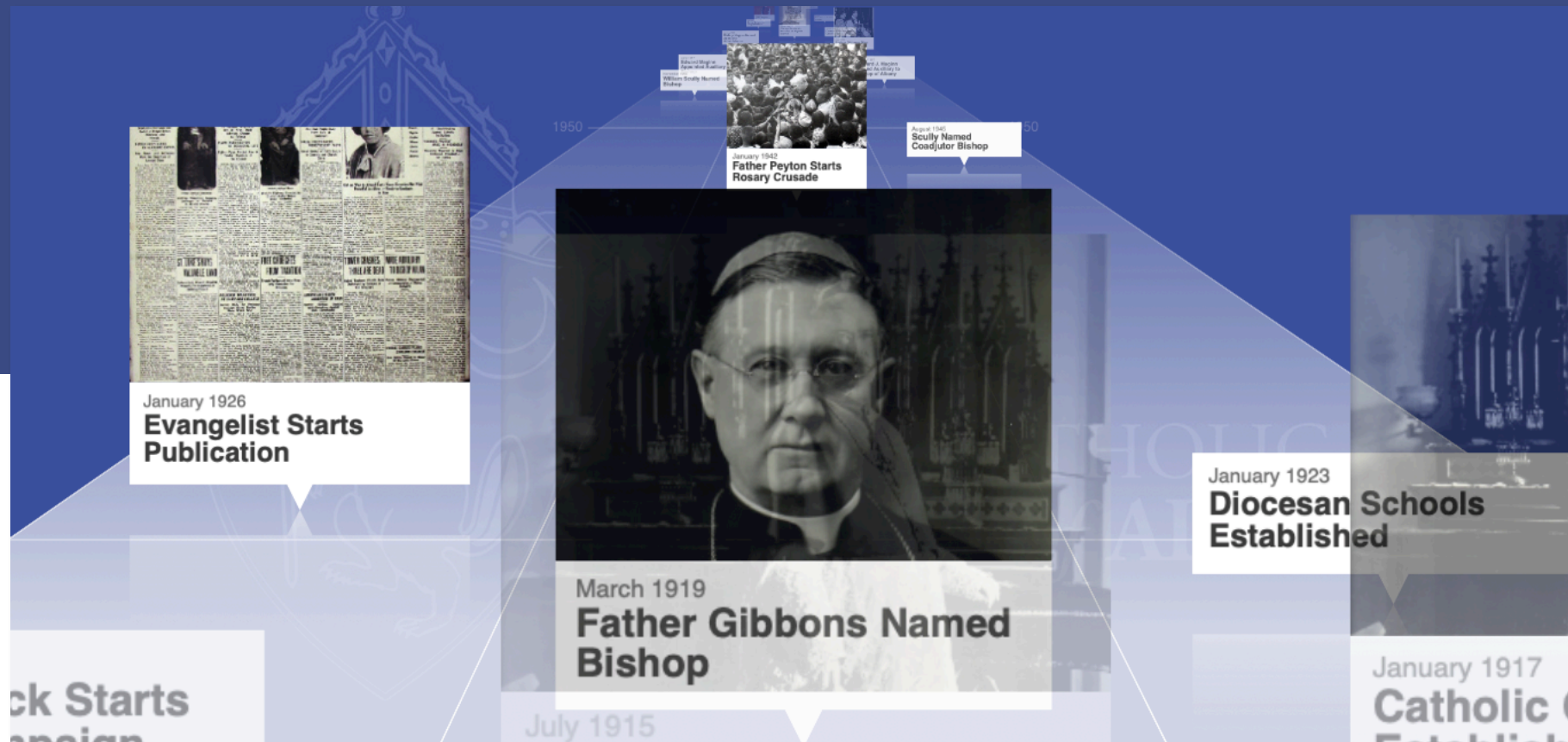
# MISSION STATEMENT



Our priorities spring from the Great Commission which Jesus gave to His Church: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19):

- **Evangelize.** The heart of evangelization is the cultivation of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – nurtured through prayer, Scripture and Sacrament, especially the Eucharist, which is the fire that impels us to share our faith with the world.
- **Strengthen faith communities** at all levels – friends, families, parishes, schools, inter-parish, vicariate, diocesan – through prayer, resource allocation and the works of mercy
- **Develop vocational and mission awareness** at all levels through discernment, formation and empowerment
- **Care of the poorest and most vulnerable** – within and beyond our faith communities – at every stage of life, from conception to natural death
- **Engage** all diocesan agencies in support of the above, especially in parishes

# OUR HISTORY



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany has a rich history of leadership and service that reaches back more than 150 years. Diocesan priests and religious communities have long worked alongside laypeople in our churches, schools, and social service outreach efforts, spreading the good news of God's love through corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Learn more about the dynamic milestones and ministries of Catholics in our region since the 17th century, as we prepare for a bright future dedicated to serving the needs of the faithful and our community across 14 counties.

Please visit [rcda.org/history](https://rcda.org/history) for a fully interactive, informational timeline of events and milestones.





**EDWARD B. SCHARFENBERGER, D.D.**

*Bishop of Albany*

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**@AlbBishopEd**



**AlbanyBishopEd**

The Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger was born May 29, 1948, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He attended Catholic schools and graduated in 1969 with a degree in English from Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception in Douglaston, N.Y. He went on to study at North American College in Rome and earned a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from Pontifical Gregorian University in 1972. He was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn on July 2, 1973, in St. Peter's Basilica by then-Bishop James A. Hickey, who later became Cardinal-Archbishop of Washington, D.C.

Bishop Scharfenberger served as parochial vicar at St. Stanislaus Parish in Maspeth (Queens) and St. Ephrem Parish in Dyker Heights (Kings) before returning to Rome to continue his studies. He earned a licentiate in sacred theology from the Academy of St. Alphonsus in 1977, a licentiate in Canon Law from Catholic University of America in 1980, a Juris Doctor of Law degree from Fordham University in 1990, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1991. He was named a Prelate of Honor (monsignor) in 1995.

Bishop Scharfenberger served as Judicial Vicar for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn from 1993 to 2002 and as pastor of St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood (Queens) from 2003 to 2014. While serving as pastor of St. Matthias, he also taught moral theology at the Diocesan Pastoral Institute in Brooklyn and was an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College, also in Brooklyn. He also served as Promoter of Justice for the Brooklyn Diocese and was a member of the Diocesan Review Board for Sexual Abuse of Minors; as Vicar for Strategic Planning; and as Episcopal Vicar for the borough of Queens.

On February 11, 2014, he was named by Pope Francis as the tenth Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, succeeding the Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard. He was ordained to the episcopacy on April 10, 2014, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. For his Episcopal Motto, Bishop Scharfenberger chose a line from the Prayer of St. Francis: "Lord, make me a channel of your peace."

At the top of Bishop Scharfenberger's shield are three green triangles which represent mountains. The image has been found on arms belonging to the Scharfenberger family of antiquity. The original form was one mountain with an elk or a deer standing upon it.

Building on the family connection, the Diocese of Albany connects the Catskill and Adirondack mountain ranges. From a theological perspective, mountains have always been a special place of encounter with God; in the Old Testament, Mount Sinai was where Moses received the Law, and in the New Testament, Mount Tabor was the mount of the Transfiguration where Jesus revealed his glory. The Church is the third and central mountain which unites the faith and witness of both the Old and New Covenants.

The mountains are green, the color of hope, symbolizing the abundant life available through faith.

In the center portion of the shield, there is a Star of David, representing the bishop's mother who was given the name Miriam at her baptism. The family, of Jewish origin, began in Kiev, Ukraine, and eventually moved to Dubuque, Iowa. Significantly, Kiev and Dubuque are both built alongside a river, as are Albany and Brooklyn.

To the viewer's right, there are two white wavy lines with a blue line in the middle, a traditional way to depict water. These represent the rivers of the bishop's life: the Dnieper; the Mississippi; the Hudson; the Mohawk; and the East Rivers. All flow into the sea, as all life flows into the Kingdom of God.

In the base of the shield is a gold feather, a reminder of the Holy Spirit and a connection to the Native American tribes of the Albany area, especially St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. The feather has a long symbolic history going back to ancient Egypt, where the feather of Maat was the feather of truth and righteousness which often tipped the balance between salvation and condemnation.

Finally, the shield is complemented by the episcopal hat and cross and the scroll bearing the motto. The gallero was once the ordinary headgear of clerics. The color and number of tassels indicate the rank of the wearer. The color for bishops is green and has six tassels on each side. The cross behind the shield is a processional cross usually carried before the bishop in church worship services.

Bishop Scharfenberger's motto, "Lord, make me a channel of your peace," is taken from the prayer often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

*Design and commentary by Very Reverend Michael M. Walters, J.C.L., V.F., director, Pontifical Mission Societies, Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.; Art work by Sister Gerarda Panek, O.P., Caldwell College, N.J.*

# COAT OF ARMS





# CURRENT STATISTICS

**Diocese Established:**

April 23, 1847

**Area:**

10,419 Square Miles

**Total population of the 14 County Diocese:**

approx. 1,388,040

**Catholic population of the 14 County Diocese:**

approx. 300,000

**Parishes/Apostolates:**

126 Parishes

4 Apostolates

**Diocesan Priests:** 174

Active 93

Retired 81

**Religious Order Priests:** 36**Ordained Deacons:** 110

Active 82

Retired 28

**Religious Brothers:** 60**Religious Sisters:** 510**Elementary Schools**

Diocesan and Parish: 18

Students: 3,802

Private: 1

Students: 119

**High Schools**

Diocesan: 4

Students: 948

Private: 3

Students: 1,144

**Diocesan School Teachers**

Elementary

Religious Brothers & Sisters: 2

Lay Teachers: 464

High School

Religious Brothers & Sisters: 1

Lay Teachers: 99

**Colleges:** 4

Students: 8,500 (Approximate)

**Campus Ministry**

Chapters: 14

Priests: 2

Lay Campus Ministers: 5

**Catechetical Programs**

Leaders: 146

Catechists: 2,771

Youth Ministers: 42

**Parish Faith Formation**

Elementary & Junior High: 11,577

High School: 4,335

**Catholic Hospitals:** 3

Capacity: Approximately 750 Beds

**Convalescent, Rest Homes, Guest Houses, Homes for the Aged and Residences:** 6

Capacity: 900

**Social Service Agencies:** 12

Employees: 889

People Served: 78,271

**Senior Citizen Housing:** 15 communities throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady and Delaware Counties. Total Apts.:

893 one and two bedroom apartments

56 two bedroom cottages

**Retreat Houses and Houses of Prayer:** 7**Religious Communities of Men in the Diocese**

Priests: 9

Religious Brothers: 7

**Motherhouses for Religious Sisters:** 6**Noviaties for Religious Sisters:** 3**Religious Communities of Women in the Diocese:** 18**Secular Institutes:** 2

# MEDIA RESOURCES

Media resources can be downloaded by visiting [rcda.org/PressKit](https://rcda.org/PressKit)

## PHOTO



Bishop Scharfenberger  
Headshot # 1  
5618x3933  
[\*\*DOWNLOAD .JPG\*\*](#)



Bishop Scharfenberger  
at Cathedral  
5618x3933  
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## VIDEO



Bishop Scharfenberger  
1 Minute Video Footage  
HD 1080 - No Audio  
[\*\*DOWNLOAD .MP4\*\*](#)



Bishop Scharfenberger  
1 Minute Video Footage  
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## CREST

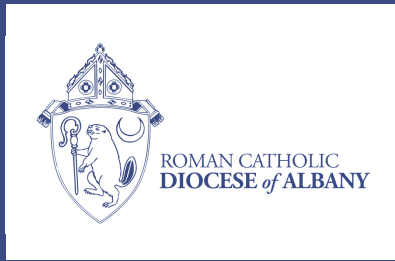


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## LOGO



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# OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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RCDA.ORG

**PRESS RELEASES:**

RCDA.ORG/NEWS

**FACEBOOK:**

FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFALBANY

**TWITTER:**

TWITTER.COM/ALBANYDIOCESE

**EVENTS CALENDAR:**

RCDA.ORG/EVENTS

The Office of Communications works to advance the overall mission of the Bishop of Albany and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany through strategic communications, media relations, social and digital media, and public information, proactively promoting the ministries of our various offices and departments, parishes and schools.

The mission of the Communications Office is to inform and evangelize. This happens not only through the obvious sharing of stories of faith in action but through our response to local media on news stories that relate to our faith in more subtle ways. It is a collaborative effort, bringing together diverse ministries and individuals to create a unified story that mirrors the Gospel and inspires Catholics and non-Catholics alike throughout the Diocese and beyond.

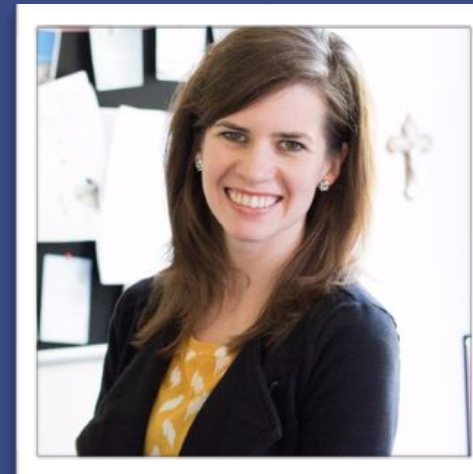


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