

# The Bishop of Lubbock



## **Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver** *The Third Bishop of Lubbock*

For his Personal Arms, seen in the dexter impalement right side of the design, Bishop Coerver adopted symbolic elements inspired in large part by his friend and architect, R. Andrew Bennett, all elements reflecting his life and heritage as well as his call to the fullness of the Holy Priesthood as Bishop of Lubbock.

The Arms are composed of several significant elements. Prime among them, a blue wavy bar cutting across the right half of the blazon diagonally from left to right. Representing clearly a river, this evokes the Arms of the Diocese of Dallas where the Bishop spent most of his life and ministry. The river, which is white in the Arms of Dallas, symbolizes the Trinity River which flows through the heart of the city. Here the river is blue, calling to mind not only Our Lady but also his first Pastorate at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Rockwell, Texas. Within the river rest three roses signifying not only the Most Blessed Trinity but also Saint Rita, patroness of the parish His Excellency served as Pastor until called to his new ministry in Lubbock.

On the top right hand corner of the blazon, a red Chi-Rho. Greek letters which have since antiquity represented Christ, it's a symbol used by the Bishop a significant charge for his priestly ordination.

To the lower left on a green field, a gold carpenter's square signifying woodworking, which represents his Irish heritage, namely his mother's side of the family.

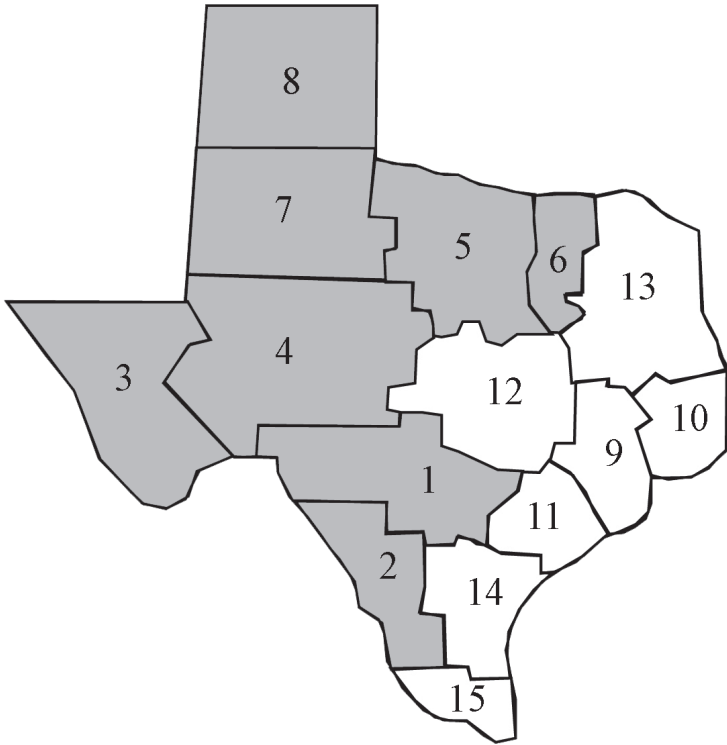
For his Motto, Bishop Coerver adopted the Latin phrase *Suscipe Domine*. Taken from the last meditation of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and forming part of what is known as his Prayer of Self-Offering, it translates, "Take Lord, receive."

Completed with external ornaments of a gold processional Cross, standing behind the blazon, it bears the Trinitarian symbol of interlaced red knots, here symbolizing also Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, one of the Bishop's alma matres, on whose faculty he served for eleven years; and a pontifical hat, a galero, with its six tassels, in three rows, on either side of the shield, all in green

**Date of Birth**  
**Ordained Priest of Dallas**  
**Appointed Bishop of Lubbock**  
**Ordained as Bishop of Lubbock**

**June 6, 1954**  
**June 27, 1980**  
**September 27, 2016**  
**November 21, 2016**

# Texas Dioceses



## **Ecclesiastical province of San Antonio**

1. San Antonio  
*(metropolitan)*
2. Laredo
3. El Paso
4. San Angelo
5. Fort Worth
6. Dallas
7. Lubbock
8. Amarillo

## **Ecclesiastical province of Galveston - Houston**

9. Galveston- Houston  
*(metropolitan)*
10. Beaumont
11. Victoria
12. Austin
13. Tyler
14. Corpus Christi
15. Brownsville

# **The Dioceses and Bishops of Texas**

## **ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO**

**Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller M.Sp.S.**

*Archbishop of San Antonio*

2718 W Woodlawn

San Antonio, Texas 78228

**210.734.2620 Fax 210.734.0231**

**Most Rev. Michael J. Boulette**

*Auxiliary Bishop*

**Most Rev. Gary W. Janak, JCL**

*Auxiliary Bishop*

## **DIOCESE OF AMARILLO**

**Most Rev. Patrick J. Zurek D.D.**

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Amarillo, Texas 79117

**806.383.2243 Fax 806.383.8452**

## **DIOCESE OF DALLAS**

**Most Rev. Edward J. Burns**

P.O. BOX 190507

Dallas, Texas 75219

**214.528.2240 Fax 214.526.1743**

**Most Rev. J. Gregory Kelly**

*Auxiliary Bishop*

## **DIOCESE OF EL PASO**

**Most Rev. Mark Seitz, D.D.**

499 St. Matthews Street

El Paso, Texas 79907

**915.872.8400 Fax 915.595.5095**

## **DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH**

**Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD**

800 W. Loop 820 South

Fort Worth, Texas 76108

**817.560.3300 Fax 817.244.8839**

## **DIOCESE OF LAREDO**

**Most Rev. James A. Tamayo**

1901 Corpus Christi Street

Laredo, Texas 78043

**956.727.2140**

**DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK**

**Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver**

4620 4th Street

Lubbock, Texas 79416

**806.792.3943 Fax 806.792.2953**

**Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, CMF**

*Bishop Emeritus*

**DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO**

**Most Rev. Michael Sis, D.D.**

P.O. Box 1829

San Angelo, Texas 76902

**325.651.7500 Fax 325.651.6688**

**Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI**

*Bishop Emeritus*

**ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**

**Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**

*Archbishop of Galveston-Houston*

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**Most Rev. Italo Dell'Oro, C.R.S.**

*Auxiliary Bishop*

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**Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez**

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**Most Rev. Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O.**

*Auxiliary Bishop*

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Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

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**Most Rev. Edmond Carmody**

*Bishop Emeritus*

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**Bishop Joe S. Vásquez**

*Apostolic Administrator*

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**DIOCESE OF VICTORIA**

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Victoria, Texas 77903

**361.573.0828 · Fax 361.573.5725**

**Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, Ph.D., J.C.D.**

*Bishop Emeritus*

**Personal Ordinate of the Chair of Saint Peter**

**Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes**

PO Box 55206

Houston, TX 77255

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# Historical Outline

## THE DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK

Established and Created a Diocese

June 17, 1983

The High Plains and Rolling Plains areas of West Texas - the Panhandle, The Llano Estacado ("Palisade Plains") or South Plains, and the Concho River Valley - first became home to a Roman Catholic Diocese when the Diocese of Amarillo was established in 1926. The Diocese of Amarillo embraced an area from Dalhart in the north to Ozona in the south. The part north of the Colorado River had been taken from the Dallas diocese and the section south of the river came from San Antonio (with two counties, Andrews and Ector, coming from El Paso).



**Gerken**

The first bishop was Most Rev. Rudolph A. Gerken, then pastor of Ranger, Texas. In 1933, Bishop Gerken was appointed Archbishop of Santa Fe, and Robert E. Lucey came from California as Bishop of Amarillo. In 1941, Bishop Lucey was named Archbishop of San Antonio, and Most Rev. Laurence J. FitzSimon, then pastor of Seguin, Texas, became the third Bishop of Amarillo. Bishop FitzSimon died in 1958 and was succeeded by his auxiliary, Bishop John L. Morkovsky.



**FitzSimon**



**Lucey**



**Morkovsky**

In 1962, the San Angelo Diocese was established and Rev. Thomas J. Drury, then pastor of Christ the King Parish in Lubbock, was named its first bishop. In 1965, Bishop Drury was transferred to Corpus Christi, and Most Rev. Thomas Tschoepe became Bishop of San Angelo.

In 1969, Bishop Tschoepe was transferred to Dallas and was succeeded by Bishop Stephen Leven, then an auxiliary bishop of San Antonio, Bishop Leven retired in 1979 and was succeeded by Most Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza.

Meanwhile, back in Amarillo, Bishop Morkovsky had been transferred in 1963 to Galveston-Houston and Most Rev. Lawrence M. DeFalco came from Dallas to serve as the Bishop of Amarillo.

Bishop DeFalco died in 1979 and Most Rev. Leroy T. Matthiesen of Amarillo was named Bishop of Amarillo in 1980.

On June 17, 1983, the Diocese of Lubbock was created with Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan as its first bishop. The Diocese of Lubbock embraces an area that was formerly in the Diocese of Amarillo, plus five counties (Jones, Scurry, Haskell, Fisher, and Stonewall) from the Diocese of San Angelo.

Ten years later, Bishop Sheehan was named Archbishop of Santa Fe and, on April 5, 1994, His Holiness Pope John Paul II announced the appointment of Bishop Placido Rodriguez, CMF, as the second Bishop of the Diocese of Lubbock. His episcopal installation took place on June 1, 1994, in Lubbock.

Bishop Coerver was named his successor September 27, 2016 and was ordained and installed as Bishop of Lubbock on November 21, 2016, at Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock.

**Dates of Establishment:**

- 1907 Saint John, Hermleigh
- 1911 Saint Alice, Plainview  
(called Holy Trinity Church until 1928)
- 1912 Saint Joseph, Slaton
- 1921 Sacred Heart, Littlefield
- 1924 Sacred Heart, El Ranchito  
Saint Joseph, Lubbock
- 1926 Holy Trinity, Hamlin  
Diocese of Amarillo Established  
Saint Margaret Mary, Lamesa  
Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, Slaton
- 1928 Saint Mary Magdalen, Floydada
- 1929 Saint Joseph, Rotan
- 1931 Saint Philip, Pep
- 1935 Saint Elizabeth, Lubbock
- 1939 Saint Mary of the Plains Hospital, Lubbock
- 1944 Saint Theresa, Hale Center  
(called Saint Charles, until 1961)
- 1946 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Plainview
- 1948 Saint Mary, Spur (originally in Jayton, Moved to Spur)
- 1950 Saint Michael, Levelland
- 1951 Saint Jude, Tahoka  
(called Our Lady of Guadalupe until 1967)
- 1952 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Slaton

- 1952 Saint Elizabeth, Snyder  
Saint Anthony, Brownfield
- 1954 Saint Ann, Morton
- 1955 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Snyder  
Saint William, Denver City  
Saint Ann, Stamford  
Saint Elizabeth, Paducah  
Holy Cross, Post
- 1956 Immaculate Conception, Muleshoe
- 1957 Saint George, Haskell
- 1958 Saint Peter, Olton  
Saint James, Seminole  
Christ the King (Cathedral), Lubbock
- 1959 Saint Pius X, O'Donnell  
Sacred Heart, Petersburg  
Saint Michael, Ralls
- 1960 Saint Patrick, Lubbock  
Our Lady of Grace, Lubbock
- 1961 Saint Theresa, Lubbock (Carlisle)  
San Lorenzo, Lorenzo  
Sacred Heart, Plainview  
Blessed Sacrament, Wilson  
Saint Theresa, Hale Center  
Sacred Heart, Plains  
Saint Paul, Seagraves
- 1962 Diocese of San Angelo established  
Saint Joseph, Crosbyton  
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Matador
- 1963 Saint Joseph, Lockney
- 1965 Saint Philip Benizi, Shallowater
- 1966 Saint Isidore, Abernathy  
Saint Mary Magdalen, Earth  
Saint Anthony, Anton
- 1972 Epiphany, Jayton (first church was Saint Mary's built in  
1929; closed August 6, 2017)  
Saint Mary, Aspermont (first church was Sacred Heart,  
built in 1929; closed and sold in 1951)  
Saint Philip Benizi, Idalou
- 1973 Saint Michael, Anson  
Christian Renewal Center, Lubbock (now Catholic  
Renewal Center)
- 1974 San Ramon, Woodrow  
Saint Mary, Sudan (closed September 1, 1996)
- 1976 Our Lady Queen of Apostles, New Deal
- 1978 Saint Francis of Assisi, Wolfforth
- 1980 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lubbock  
Saint John Neumann, Lubbock (Saint Peter's School  
built at this location by Saint Elizabeth's Parish  
in 1959)



- 1980 Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton (former convent of Sisters of Mercy who owned Mercy Hospital; officially deeded to the Diocese of Lubbock by the sisters in 1986)
- 1981 Holy Family, Cotton Center (closed August 17, 1996)  
San Francisco de Asis, Ropesville
- 1983 Diocese of Lubbock established
- 1985 Catholic Center (built with funds from Kenney-East Foundation; now called the “Catholic Pastoral Center”)
- 1988 San Isidro, Sundown (Closed June 30, 2018)
- 1990 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Plainview, moves to the former City National Bank building.
- 1998 Holy Spirit church, Lubbock
- 2015 Saint John the Baptist, Lubbock
- 2024 Saint Clare of Assisi, Lubbock

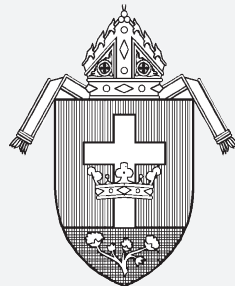
## The Diocesan Coat of Arms

The arms of the Diocese of Lubbock are composed of a red shield on which is displayed a silver cross. On this cross is displayed a gold crown (diadem). The conjunction of those symbols form the representation traditionally used to signify Christ, the King; titular of the cathedral church for the diocese.

The symbolism of Christ the King is issuant from a base which represents the Caprock Escarpment that stands at the center of diocesan lands and upon which the city is built. This base is black to represent the petroleum often found under the ground. On the black background is superimposed a silver sprig of cotton, the economic mainstay of the region.

The shield – which is the central and most important feature of any heraldic device – is surmounted by a bishop’s miter, in gold; the heraldic insignia of a diocese in the Roman Catholic Church.

*By Paul J. Sullivan, heraldist*



## Catholic Diocese of Lubbock 2022 Statistical Abstract

<b>Pastoral Care</b>		<i>Covenant Medical</i>	
Bishop	1	Bed capacity	800
Bishop Emeritus	1	Total patients	125,773
<i>Diocesan priests</i>	27	Care centers	35
<i>Religious order priests</i>	14	Total patients	451,178
<i>Diocesan priests outside diocese</i>	2		
<i>Diocesan priests retired</i>	15	Total served	30,000
<i>Extern priests in diocese</i>	1	<b>Sacramental Life</b>	
Total priests in diocese	59	Infant Baptisms	842
Seminarians	6	Adult Baptisms	66
Deacons	75	Received into	
<i>Retired Deacons</i>	7	full Communion	152
<i>Inactive Deacons</i>	3	First Communions	1,032
Women religious	23	Confirmations	740
<b>Facilities:</b>		Marriages:	
Parishes	61	Catholic	216
Chapels	2	Mixed Religion	29
<i>Mass attendance</i>	17,252	Total	245
Parochial schools	1	Deaths	401
Paid lay teachers	46	<b>The Diocese of Lubbock:</b>	
<i>Total students</i>	434	Texas Counties	25
Public school students in religious instruction:		Total square miles	23,382
High School	1,863	Catholic population	
Elementary School	5,957	(Self-identified)	136,894
<i>Total</i>	7,820	Total Population	
Total catechists	1,219	(U.S. Census)	494,458
Catholic Charities:	1	Catholic percentage	
Catholic medical centers:		of population	27.7
<i>Covenant Women's &amp; Children's</i>			
Bed capacity	420		
Total patients	97,339		