



# *The Diocese of Knoxville*

Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## Cathedral dedication stone visits area parishes blessed by Pope Francis; touring diocese

**KNOXVILLE---** It weighs 19.5 pounds, and is roughly the size of an ordinary ceiling tile, but a granite slab mined from property in East Tennessee symbolizes the Diocese of Knoxville's connection with Pope Francis and the universal Catholic Church.

The dedication stone that will be placed inside the new Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus that is under construction in Knoxville is making a pilgrimage across East Tennessee. The stone's next stops are:

**March 11-12: St. Mary Catholic Church, 304 Historic Nature Trail, Gatlinburg, TN 37738**

**March 18-19: Holy Cross Catholic Church, 144 Wears Valley Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863**

**March 25-26: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 7719 River Road, Townsend, TN 37882**

The cathedral dedication stone was carried to Rome in 2015 by Bishop Richard F. Stika of the Diocese of Knoxville. He was accompanied by Cardinal Justin A. Rigali. The stone was blessed by Pope Francis on Oct. 14, 2015, at the Vatican.

While the stone visits area Catholic churches, it will be displayed in a wooden case along with a photo of the blessing by Pope Francis and a short history, a reflection, and a prayer.

The stone will visit all 51 parishes and mission churches, and all 10 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Knoxville before being placed in the cathedral before its dedication on March 3, 2018.

**For more information on the dedication stone, or to arrange a visit to a parish church to see it, please contact Jim Wogan at [jwogan@dioknox.org](mailto:jwogan@dioknox.org) or Bill Brewer at [bbrewer@dioknox.org](mailto:bbrewer@dioknox.org).**

To read more about visits at other Catholic churches, please visit [dioknox.org](http://dioknox.org).