



## Year of Saint Francis of Assisi

2026 – January 10 – 2027

Holy Faith Catholic Church

“Iglesia Santa Fe”

Sacred Pilgrimage Site



Most Reverend

**BISHOP EMERITUS**

**ROBERT J. BAKER**

Will honor the “Year of St. Francis”  
with Holy Faith Church

**Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30pm**

*In the Fr. John Phillips – Parish Life Center*

*A Conversation:*

**OUR ROOTS, OUR NAME, AND OUR FUTURE:**

*The legacy of the Franciscan Missions in our land  
and the Faith of the Catholic Church*

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*Holy Faith Church, Iglesia Santa Fe, stands in a region once served by Franciscan Missionaries and continues their legacy through its connections to St. Francis of Assisi and the ongoing presence of the Catholic Faith in North Florida. Holy Faith represents the continuation of a Catholic presence first established by Franciscan missionaries over 400 years ago...*

*See reverse for details...*

**Bishop Robert J. Baker** was born in 1944, in Willard, Ohio. In 1966, he graduated from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. In 1970, he earned a Master of Divinity from the school's theology program. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1970 at the St. Wendelin Parish in Fostoria, Ohio, by the Bishop of St. Augustine, Paul Tanner.

**His** first assignment was assistant pastor of St. Paul Parish in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, in the Diocese of St. Augustine. During his time as pastor, Baker also served as a religion instructor at Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville, and the director of the school's religious department,

**From** 1972-1975, Bishop Baker studied theology at Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. In 1974, he earned a Licentiate of Sacred Theology degree. He received a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree, in 1977. From 1976-1985, Bishop served as administrator of St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center in Gainesville, Florida, as vice-president and president of the Diocese of St. Augustine presbyteral council, as chairman of the Campus Ministry Cooperative at the University of Florida, as sacramental theology instructor and faculty member at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, and pastor of the Basilica of St. Augustine. In 1997.

**While** in Gainesville he founded St. Francis House and Soup Kitchen. His legacy for the care of the homeless continued throughout the years and Saint Francis House and Soup Kitchen became a well establish shelter for those in need.

Bishop Baker was appointed pastor of Christ the King Parish in Jacksonville. Robert Baker was installed as the twelfth bishop of Charleston in 1999. After eight years of service in South Carolina, Bishop Baker was appointed to the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, in 2007. He retired in 2020 and is currently Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Birmingham.

## **Cacique:**

### **A Novel of Florida's Heroic Mission History**

Novel by Bishop Robert J. Baker with Tony Sands

Beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and continuing for over 100 years, Spanish Franciscans sustained a chain of missions throughout northern Florida. With the mission of Saint Augustine as the spiritual anchor, the Catholic faith penetrated forest and glade and found a home in the hearts of the Potano Indians, a missionary quest termed by Florida historian Michael Gannon "a great civilizing work of the human spirit." **Cacique** is a story of the Potano chieftains and their relationship with the Franciscan missionaries, the first among them Father Thomas Sanchez, whose character is based upon Father Martin Prieto, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan missionary to the Potano people. With inner conviction and indefatigable energy, this young inexperienced Franciscan priest brought the Gospel of the Lord and the sacraments of the Church to a people he came to love as his own family, a people who reciprocated that love.