

# Archdiocese of Detroit

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**Msgr. James Robinson to become Rector Emeritus**

## **Msgr. Michael LeFevre Appointed Rector of Cathedral**

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has appointed Monsignor Michael LeFevre (pronounced *Lah-FEVER*) as the eighth rector of Detroit's Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, effective July 1. In addition, the cardinal has appointed the current rector, Monsignor James Robinson, SSE, as rector emeritus, also effective July 1.

Ordained in 1982, Msgr. LeFevre, 46, has served for the past 10 years as pastor of St. Blase Parish in Sterling Heights. In his 21 years as a priest, he has held a variety of posts, including: president, Bishop Gallagher High School, Harper Woods; associate pastor, National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak; associate pastor, St. Anne Parish, Ortonville; and secretary to Cardinals Edmund Szoka and Adam Maida.

"Monsignor LeFevre served as my first priest secretary," said Cardinal Maida. "I came to know him well during the next three years and have the utmost confidence in his abilities and insight. As a pastor, he's displayed solid leadership skills both at the parish and archdiocesan level.

"I know that Msgr. LeFevre has a deep love for the city of Detroit and an appreciation of the challenges of urban ministry," the cardinal added. "This is a renaissance moment for Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. One of my goals in identifying a new rector was to find someone who could serve as a good 'bridge' between the city and suburbs, someone known for cordial hospitality, and someone who would help to make the cathedral a 'second home' to everyone in the archdiocese. Msgr. LeFevre's energy and experience will serve us well."

Msgr. LeFevre holds a Bachelor of Arts from Sacred Heart Seminary College, Detroit; a Master of Divinity from St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth; and a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

"I am excited by the opportunity to be a part of the renovation of our cathedral church," said Msgr. LeFevre. "Now that the brick and mortar portion of the renovation is complete, I look forward to working with the parish council in setting our vision on the second century of the cathedral, which begins in 2005."

Located at 9844 Woodward Avenue, between Grand Boulevard and Davison, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral is the mother church to the 1.4 million Catholics in the six counties of the Archdiocese of Detroit. On March 25, 2003, Cardinal Maida celebrated a Mass of Rededication for the newly renovated cathedral. The rededication was the culmination of a \$15 million project that began in September of 2001.

Cardinal Maida also praised Msgr. James Robinson, SSE, 71, who has served as rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral for the past 20 years. "Msgr. Robinson has graciously and wisely coordinated many different challenges. First and foremost, he has been a loving pastor to the people of the immediate area, who look to the cathedral as their 'home parish.'

"As rector, he helped coordinate all the major events which have happened there under his tenure, including annual events such as the Chrism Mass and extraordinary circumstances such as the 1987 papal visit," the cardinal continued. "In addition, he has served in a number of leadership capacities and has been a trusted friend and confidant throughout the years. In view of the unique circumstances of the cathedral, and in recognition of his outstanding service, I have chosen to appoint Msgr. Robinson rector emeritus."

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**\*\*\*This news release and digital photos of Monsignors LeFevre and Robinson are available on the web at [homepage.mac.com/nedmcgrath](http://homepage.mac.com/nedmcgrath) or by calling the Office of Public Relations at 313-237-5943.**

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