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On Wednesday, July 17

Cardinal Maida to Attend White House Dinner in Honor of Polish President

Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida will attend a State Dinner on Wednesday evening, July 17, hosted by President and Mrs. George W. Bush at the White House in honor of Aleksander Kwasniewski, president of the Republic of Poland, and Mrs. Kwasniewska.

"I am deeply honored to have been invited to dinner at the White House with President Bush and the President Kwasniewski. As the ranking Polish-American hierarch in the nation, I have the privilege of representing the Catholic Church in the United States.

"Coming from a Polish-American ethnic and faith heritage, I have always carried within me a great respect for the land of our ancestors and the Polish tradition of faith, which stretches back over a millennium. I anticipate a lively conversation as we break bread and discuss the many things the United States and Poland share in common," said Cardinal Maida.

President and Mrs. Kwasniewski will arrive in Washington on Wednesday morning for a three-day visit that is expected to focus on business and military cooperation between the United States and Poland. On Thursday, July 18, the two presidents will travel to the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan, for a luncheon with Polish-Americans. Cardinal Maida will deliver the invocation at the luncheon.

On Friday, July 19, the First Lady of Poland, Jolanta Kwasniewska, will tour and unveil a new photo exhibit at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC. A luncheon will follow. The exhibit, *Poland - John Paul II - Motherland*, consists of photos and remarks by the Pope from his various trips to Poland and will be on display through August.

The Pope John Paul II Cultural Center is an interactive facility of faith and culture that utilizes state-of-the-art technologies to allow visitors to explore Catholicism, the papacy, and issues relating to religion, world culture and spirituality. Cardinal Maida was the driving force behind the creation of the center.

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