

**To:** News Editors, Assignment Desks and other Interested Persons (Two-Page FAX)  
**From:** Ned McGrath (work) 313-237-5943 / (home) 313-886-4114  
**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2002 at 12 noon

**On Same Day as World Gathering in Assisi**  
**RE: Cardinal Maida to Host Interfaith Prayer Service**

On Thursday, January 24, the same day as Pope John Paul II will be praying for peace with other world leaders in Assisi, Italy, Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, will host an interfaith prayer service for Detroit area religious leaders in Saints (SS.) Peter and Paul Church in downtown Detroit.

The public is invited to join Cardinal Maida and representatives from 17 different faith traditions at 12 noon in SS. Peter and Paul Church, located on Jefferson at the corner of St. Antoine, across from Renaissance Center, in downtown Detroit. Over 800 people from metro Detroit's business, civic and religious communities are expected to attend.

Cardinal Maida and the representatives from the different faith traditions, including non-Christian religions, will speak briefly and sign a one-page *Commitment to Peace in the World*. Children will pass out olive branches, a symbol of peace, to all of those in attendance.

"I'm eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to gather with leaders of other religions as we each pray, according to our traditions, for peace in the world," said Cardinal Maida.

Participating with Cardinal Maida in the Interfaith Prayer Service will be: Heather Robinson of the Baha'i Community; Reverend Sam H. Bullock, Jr. of the Bethany Baptist Church; Rev. James Beall of Bethesda Christian Church; Reverend Muditha of the Buddhist Community; Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim of the Chaldean Catholic Diocese of America; Elder Thomas Bithell of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; Pastor Jim Lee of the Church of Today; Imam Syed Salman of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan; Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs, Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan; Bishop Robert Rimbo of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Vijay Patel of the Hindu Community; Rabbi Danny Nevins of the Michigan Board of Rabbis; M. Henry Sands, Jr. of the Native American Community; His Grace Bishop Nicholas of the Orthodox Diocese of Michigan; Rev. Dr. Arlene W. Gordon of the Presbytery of Detroit; Dr. Trilochan Singh of the Sikh Community; and Rev. Katie Stein-Sather of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

In a letter to Catholic pastors asking them to invite their parishioners to attend the Interfaith Prayer Service, Cardinal Maida noted "...prayer opens our closed minds and fearful hearts to the infinite power of God's mercy and compassion; prayer with and for others brought down Communism and truly has the power to change the world."

For additional details about the Interfaith Prayer Service, call the Archdiocese of Detroit at 313-237-5904 or check the Archdiocese of Detroit web site at [www.archdioceseofdetroit.org](http://www.archdioceseofdetroit.org), where more information will be posted as it becomes available.

A copy of the *Commitment to Peace in the World* document that will be signed by the religious leaders at the Interfaith Prayer Service follows.

**\*\*\*Note to media representatives: You are invited to cover this event. There will be a press feed at the church. Cardinal Maida and many of the other religious leaders will be available to meet with reporters following the service. Personnel from the Communications Department of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be on hand to assist you.**