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**Contact: Ned McGrath
313-237-5943**

Pope Names Monsignor Earl Boyea An Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has named Monsignor Earl A. Boyea as a new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Installation of Bishop-elect Boyea will take place in September at Our Lady of the Lakes Church in Waterford.

Bishop-elect Boyea, 51, has served since 2000 as President/Rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Previously, he served as dean of the theology faculty at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

“St. Paul wrote these words to his friend and colleague, Timothy: ‘The saying is sure; if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a noble task.’ I must confess that I have not desired—and still do not desire—this ‘noble task’, yet here I am.

“...And if I must take up this office, and do this ‘noble task’ there can be no better place than home. Here are brother bishops, priests and deacons whom I know and love. Here are sisters and brothers in religious communities who trained me. Here are fellow believers in Jesus Christ who formed me. I Pray I will be worthy to exercise this ‘noble task’ to all of you,” said Bishop-elect Boyea.

The new bishop-elect joins Auxiliary Bishops Moses Anderson, S.S.E.; Leonard Blair; Kevin Britt; and Allen Vigneron. Bishop Thomas Gumbleton also serves as an Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit. In 1994, at his own request, Bishop Gumbleton was relieved of administrative responsibilities. Bishop Walter Schoenherr is retired.

The 1.46 million Catholics in the six-county area of the Archdiocese of Detroit are led by Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit.

“The choice of Bishop-elect Boyea is a great tribute for him personally... and a welcome blessing for our archdiocese,” said Cardinal Maida. “This, no doubt, is recognition of his many years of ministry in the area of formation of future priests.

“This, too, is an acknowledgement of his distinguished career as a professor of church history and scripture...as someone who has always had a great interest in the students he serves.”

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*****Note: A photo and other material relating to Bishop-elect Boyea can be found on the Internet at homepage.mac.com/nedmcgrath.**