

For Immediate Release
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Bishop Kevin M. Britt Named Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids

Pope John Paul II has named Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Kevin M. Britt as Coadjutor Bishop with Bishop Robert J. Rose of the Diocese of Grand Rapids with the right of succession. Bishop Rose, 72, has served as Bishop of Grand Rapids since 1989. In March of this year, he requested a coadjutor to assist him until his retirement.

Bishop Britt will formally join the Diocese of Grand Rapids on February 11, 2003. "I am very happy and grateful to the Holy Father for the confidence and trust he has placed in me by naming me Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids," said Bishop Britt. "I look forward to working with Bishop Rose and getting to know the people of my new home, Grand Rapids."

The Diocese of Grand Rapids was established in 1882. It is made up of 11 counties in west central Michigan and contains 6,795 square miles. There are 102 parishes and missions, 105 active priests and a Catholic population of 161,525.

Bishop Britt, 58, was born in Detroit and is the son of the late Rose and Edward Britt, formerly of Redford. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 28, 1970 at St. Agatha Parish, Redford, following studies at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, and St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth.

"The clergy, religious and laity of Grand Rapids are truly blessed by the appointment of Bishop Britt as Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids," said Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit. "He has experience at the parochial and diocesan levels and at the Vatican.

"While in Detroit, Bishop Britt distinguished himself by his work with young people at St. John's Center for Youth and Family and World Youth Day activities, as well as by his duties as Vicar for the Office of Pastoral Services for Clergy," the cardinal added.

Ordained an Auxiliary Bishop in 1994, Bishop Britt has served the Church in a variety of posts. His many assignments include: Associate Pastor, St. Martin Parish, Detroit; Co-Pastor, St. Agatha Parish, Redford; Assistant Spiritual Director and Spiritual Director, Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit; Personal Secretary to Cardinal Edmund Szoka in Rome and to the staff of the Prefecture for Economic Affairs of the Holy See; Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Detroit; Pastor, St. Alphonsus Parish, Dearborn; and Vicar of the Office of Pastoral Services for Clergy. In addition he oversaw the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy, Farmington-Southfield, Pontiac, Southeast Oakland, Thumb, Vicariate of the Lakes; Northwest Detroit, and West Detroit Vicariates.

On the national scene, Bishop Britt holds numerous positions including Chairman of the Vocations Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He is also a member of the USCCB National Advisory Council and the USCCB Personnel Committee.

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A digital color photo of Bishop Kevin Britt is available from the Office of Public Relations of the Archdiocese of Detroit, call 313-237-5943.