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Effective August 24, 2006

Msgr. Jeffrey Monforton Named Rector/President of Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has announced the appointment of Msgr. Jeffrey Monforton, pastor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, Shelby Township, as the new rector/president of Detroit's Sacred Heart Major Seminary. The appointment is effective August 24.

Msgr. Monforton, 43, succeeds Fr. Steven Boguslawski, O.P., who earlier this month was named acting director of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. Ordained in 1994, Msgr. Monforton studied for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Prior to his assignment to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, he served for seven years as personal priest secretary to Cardinal Maida. He has also served as associate pastor of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak; a member of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary faculty; and a weekend assistant at St. Paul on the Lake Parish, Grosse Pointe Farms, and St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Sterling Heights.

"Msgr. Monforton brings an outstanding combination of pastoral experience, academic excellence, and administrative skill to his new role as rector," Cardinal Maida said in a letter to the priests of the Detroit archdiocese. "...From my personal experience, I can attest to the outstanding character, prayerfulness, and fidelity of Msgr. Monforton. He has been among my most trusted advisors over the years."

Sacred Heart Seminary was founded in 1919 and is located on a 22-acre campus near the Boston-Edison Historic District. It was refounded as a major seminary in 1988, when a Graduate School of Theology was added to the College of Liberal Arts. The Institute of Ministry was established in 1988 to educate and train individuals for the permanent diaconate and professional lay ecclesial ministry.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, 97 seminarians are enrolled at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, with 37 of them studying to become priests for the Archdiocese of Detroit. For the 2006 fall term, 420 lay students are enrolled through the Institute for Ministry.

"I am both humbled and honored by the trust Cardinal Maida has placed in me as rector/president of Sacred Heart Major Seminary," said Msgr. Monforton. "I leave a parish family I dearly love and now embrace the role of leading a seminary very close to my heart.

"While the 'simple way' of St. Thérèse of Lisieux has guided me in the role as pastor, the selfless love of Jesus' Sacred Heart galvanizes me to the mission of preparing our future priests and others pursuing a host of responsibilities in the Catholic Church."

Msgr. Monforton was born in Detroit to Marc and Virginia (Ackerman) Monforton. He is the eldest of three sons and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Sacred Heart Major Seminary. In addition, he holds a Bachelor, Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

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*****Note: Additional information on Msgr. Monforton, including a biography and photo, can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.AODonline.org. For more information, call 313-237-5943.**