



To Our Venerable Brother
Adam Joseph Maida, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church,
Archbishop of Detroit

Our Venerable Brother – the very commemoration of your long, sacred service, as well as the number of your accomplishments in the ministry you have performed so fruitfully and commendably among ecclesial communities thus far, gives us great joy.

Moreover, the coming memorable event of your life which, God willing, will happily take place on the twenty-sixth day of the month of May, and which will adorn you with new honor among your Brother Bishops and Pastors, increases Our desire to write to you and to congratulate you publicly.

For we are speaking of the fiftieth anniversary of your priesthood, and therefore the golden jubilee of your presbyterate, at which time it will certainly be right and fitting to celebrate the entire course of your manifold zeal for Christ and the Church, which We also are earnest to do with this Our letter.

Not only does the Detroit Archdiocese, which you have been governing prudently and efficiently for the past sixteen years, stand with you, a faithful and diligent administrator, but also the beloved clergy and faithful people of Green Bay, where you vigilantly managed the rudders of diocesan leadership for six years. And above all, the Church of Pittsburgh, for which you were initiated by your priestly ordination fifty years ago, will remember you as its priest and assiduous caretaker in many respects.

Our Venerable Brother – it is with pleasure that we extol the projects you have undertaken, nor can we in any way keep silent about that highest respect which you enjoy beyond the borders of your jurisdiction: by this Apostolic See, by the Episcopal Conference of the United States, and equally by civil institutions themselves.

These monuments and distinctions of your priesthood are well-known to all, and give us as much reason and cause to congratulate you for the auspicious beginnings of your ministry. Accept from Our hands, therefore, these fraternal exhortations and fervid praises, as we beg our Merciful Redeemer that He may grant you a most delightful celebration of this occasion and indeed offer you much encouragement, from the memory of your untiring works, for many years to come. Let this, Our salutation, be for you an attestation of Our joyful and congratulatory spirit. Finally, may Our Apostolic Blessing, conveyed to you most liberally with this letter, be the bearer of a copious recompense, both in this life and in the Kingdom thereafter.

Given in Rome, from the Vatican Household, on the twenty-fifth day of April, the Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist, in the year two-thousand-and-six, the second of Our Pontificate.



Benedictus PP 16

Pope Benedict XVI

(Unofficial English translation of the original Latin correspondence.)