

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Served as Auxiliary Bishop for Four Years Detroit Bishop to Lead Toledo Diocese

Pope John Paul II has named Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Leonard P. Blair as the Seventh Diocesan Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese Toledo, Ohio. He succeeds the late Bishop James R. Hoffman, who died in February. Bishop Robert W. Donnelly has been serving as Diocesan Administrator since the death of Bishop Hoffman.

Bishop Blair will be installed as Bishop of Toledo on Thursday, December 4, at 2 p.m. in Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo.

“Pastor, teacher, administrator—someone who is familiar with the ecumenical outreach of the Church and has firsthand knowledge of the Vatican—these are among the qualities and accomplishments Bishop Blair brings to his new assignment,” said Cardinal Maida, archbishop of Detroit. “The clergy, religious and laity of the Toledo Diocese are truly blessed by the appointment of Bishop Leonard Blair.”

The Diocese of Toledo was established in 1910 and is made up of 19 counties (8,222 square miles) in northwest Ohio. It is comprised on 326,000 Catholics, 259 priests and 159 parishes.

“I’m very happy and honored to be named the Bishop of Toledo, and I look forward to making a new home among the people of Northwest Ohio,” said Bishop Blair. “At the same time, I’m filled with deep gratitude for all the Church in Detroit has done for me from the time I was born.

“I thank my parents, family, and friends, Cardinal Maida and the many bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity with whom I have worked over the years. I am especially grateful to the parishioners at St. Paul’s Parish in Grosse Pointe Farms, where I have served as pastor for six years. I will always remember them with affection and joy.”

Bishop Blair, 54, was born in Detroit and ordained to the priesthood in 1976 following studies at Sacred Heart Seminary College, Detroit; the North American College, Rome; and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. He is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Leonard J. Blair of St. Paul of Tarsus Parish in Clinton Township.

Bishop Blair was named an Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit in August of 1999. He has served as pastor of St. Paul Parish, Grosse Pointe Farms, since July of 1997. Prior to that, he served for three years as Secretary to Cardinal Edmund Szoka and as a staff member of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, Vatican City State.

Bishop Blair holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History from Sacred Heart Seminary College; a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from the Pontifical Gregorian University; a Licentiate in Theology (S.T.L.) with a specialization in Patristics and the History of Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University; and a Doctorate in Theology (S.T.D.) from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome.

A picture of Bishop Blair and more information can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.aodonline.org and/or the Diocese of Toledo website at www.toledodiocese.org.

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