



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
305 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226
www.AODcommunications.org
TEL 313-237-5943
FAX 313-237-4644

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Contact: Ned McGrath (w) 313-237-5943 | (h) 313-886-4114

Prayer. Politics. Programs

Detroit's Interfaith Leaders Convene on Economy, Auto Industry, Next Steps

Eleven Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders gathered for a "Conversation on the Economy" on Thursday, December 4. At the invitation of Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, the religious leaders met privately at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and then briefed assembled members of the news media. Among the topics covered were: grave concerns for those impacted by the uncertain economy, and the very real fear of what will happen if there is no government intervention or plan to help stabilize the auto industry.

Responding to the discussion, Cardinal Maida said:

"I appreciated the spirit of solidarity and cooperation evidenced by the participants. As religious leaders, we are of one mind and one heart. Now, more than ever, words of hope and encouragement are needed for the people in southeast Michigan and beyond. The uncertainty in our economy has a severe impact on the poor and the marginalized, and places great stress on families and home owners, on laborers and business people. Many are understandably distressed because of the critical circumstances facing the auto industry.

"Around the table, the religious leaders generously shared their hopes, plans, and concerns. Helpful, specific steps were described. The conversation came to be organized into three headings, which the participants addressed at the news briefing: prayer, politics, and programs.

"We agreed the conversation was necessary and look forward to continuing an exchange of mutual support and ideas."

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A copy of Cardinal Maida's remarks, along with a list of the participants and other materials are posted at AODonline.org. Audio and video Podcasts will soon be available. Digital images of the meeting and briefing can be downloaded at: www.LarryPeplin.com/AOD1.