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To: News Editors and Assignment Desks (One-Page)
From: Joe Kohn 313-237-5802
Dates: April 9 - 12, 2009

At Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

RE: Archbishop Vigneron to Celebrate Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

As the Lenten season draws to a close, Archbishop Allen Vigneron, archbishop of Detroit, will celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter at Detroit's Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. The public is invited to participate. Blessed Sacrament Cathedral is situated at 9844 Woodward Avenue, between Grand Boulevard and Davison.

On Holy Thursday, April 9, at 11 a.m., Archbishop Vigneron will celebrate the Chrism Mass. At this Mass, the archbishop will consecrate the Chrism and bless the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens. Chrism is used in baptism, confirmation and ordination. Also during this Mass, the priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit will make a public renewal of their commitment to priestly service.

On Holy Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., Archbishop Vigneron will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. During this Mass, the archbishop will wash the feet of twelve parishioners, commemorating Christ washing the feet of His twelve apostles at the Last Supper.

On Good Friday, April 10, at 1 p.m., Archbishop Vigneron will begin the celebration of the Lord's Passion. This service will include prayers, the Scriptural proclamation of Christ's Passion, veneration of the cross, and Holy Communion.

On Holy Saturday, April 11, at 9 p.m., Archbishop Vigneron will preside at the Easter Vigil. This Mass will include the Blessing of the Fire, a ceremony in which the Paschal Candle is lit from a small fire in the darkened church. At the Easter Vigil, those who have completed their preparation will be baptized and/or received into full communion with the Church through their confirmation and first Eucharist.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, at 11 a.m., Archbishop Vigneron will be the celebrant and homilist at Mass. This liturgy celebrates the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead.

In addition to the liturgies at the cathedral, numerous Easter events are planned at parishes across the Archdiocese of Detroit. A partial listing of these activities can be found at www.AODonline.org/Lent.

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****Reporters, photographers and videographers are invited to cover the cathedral liturgies, as well as the parish events and activities. If you are sending a journalist, photographer or camera crew, we respectfully ask that they dress appropriately for church attendance. We also ask that they not use flash bulbs or sun guns. Please heed any directions you may receive from church personnel at the cathedral or in our local parishes.*