

Adam Cardinal Maida
Remarks Announcing New Auxiliary Bishops
Monday, 07 July 03

Good morning. Our local media has been filled recently with the comings-and-goings of big-name players for Detroit’s professional sports teams. Today we have some front page news of our own: three “veteran” Detroit priests— Monsignor Walter Hurley, Monsignor John Quinn, and Father Francis Reiss— are moving up in the ranks... having been named as auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese. If their names sound familiar it’s because of their well-earned reputations as “team players and... they’ve done just about everything. Combined, they have over 100-years of service in the Detroit archdiocese! They have served us as pastors, as educator, as canon lawyers, as archdiocesan administrators. I know in my 13 years in the archdiocese, I’ve worked closely with each of them, always with the utmost confidence and cooperation. I stand here personally grateful to the Holy Father for making these appointments of Bishop-elect Hurley, Bishop-elect Quinn, and Bishop-elect Reiss to serve me in my capacity as your cardinal-archbishop. Let me be the first to lead the applause for these most worthy candidates!

The timing of these appointments couldn’t be better. Since last summer, when we met in this room to introduce Bishop Boyea as an auxiliary bishop for Detroit, two of our bishops have moved on to new assignments: Bishop Britt to Grand Rapids, Bishop Vigneron to Oakland. Ours is an archdiocese with hundreds-of-thousands of Catholics, in scores of parishes and missions and schools and institutions, spread across six-counties here in southeast Michigan. We certainly needed the assistance! And, in our three new auxiliaries, we are blessed with tremendous talent and energy, true love for our Church, and a proven track record of dedication to the priests and people of the archdiocese.

Bishop-elect Hurley... “Walter”... has most recently been on the “front lines” as my delegate for clergy misconduct issues. He’s handled that difficult task along with full-time responsibilities as pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Farmington. He’s a canon lawyer and, at one point in his distinguished career, served as Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal. He has “hands-on” experience in the Chancery offices, having also served one

term as the Moderator of the Curia. Bishop-elect Hurley served in several parishes across the archdiocese as an associate, as a pastor four times, and, as a Vicar. More recently, he was a tremendous help to me, personally, when took on the added responsibility of project manger for the construction of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. Like that familiar advertisement for a courier service, what you get from Bishop-elect Hurley is “on-time delivery.” He is “thorough to a fault.” The archdiocese will be well-served by his organizational skills and expertise to “get the job done.”

Bishop-elect Quinn... “John”... has been the “steady hand” in our Education Department for close to 20-years. He’s capably lead that department as director and, prior to that, led the offices of Religious Education and Justice-and-Peace. With great skill and finesse, with quiet determination and an upbeat approach, he’s handled the myriad of challenges and the opportunities of our Catholic Schools. In all sorts of situations, I’ve known him as someone who can “smooth out” even the roughest path. An educator at heart, Bishop-elect Quinn has long served as a faculty member here at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He’s been a spiritual director to our young priests, and to our priests in training. His parish assignments have included St. Luke’s in Detroit, where he served as pastor, and St. Thomas More in Troy, where he currently serves as the weekend associate. Bishop-elect Quinn brings an invaluable “skill set” to his new assignment. His working knowledge of the education and formation resources in our archdiocese will make him a valuable adviser to me and great asset to the Church of Detroit.

Bishop-elect Reiss... “Frank”... is known for his “range”... his ability to bring his best to the job at hand. He’s had a variety of assignments in the archdiocese: parish ministry, campus ministry, canon law and education. Among his several pastorates is his current assignment: St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Allen Park. Like our other new auxiliaries, Bishop-elect Reiss is no stranger to the Chancery offices. He has served as a director for the Department of Education, worked in the Tribunal, and has been on numerous advisory committees here in the archdiocese. (Probably more than anyone can count! He’s currently co-chair of the Council of Vicars.) Early in his priestly career, Bishop-elect Reiss worked as a campus minister at the local colleges in Dearborn. Later, he would come here to Sacred Heart, where he served in a number of posts: dean of

admissions, assistant to the president, academic dean. It's quite a resume, but to fully appreciate Bishop-elect Reiss is to know his affection for, his affiliation with, Polonia. He is truly a "natural" for the role of auxiliary bishop!

We are a Church that has a rich tradition from the past. We build on the Apostles. So it is that we have three new successors to the Apostles. Along with me... my other auxiliary bishops...all the bishops throughout the world... our new bishops-elect will be charged with teaching the faith and helping us to apply it our daily lives. They will help bring the universal dimension of the Church to each local gathering of the faithful. Let me say again how thankful I am for Bishop-elect Hurley, Bishop-elect Quinn and Bishop-elect Reiss. Making the best use of their gifts, I will look to them to help me in the administration of the archdiocese, to take on special assignments, and to be present in parishes celebrating the sacraments.

Now, let's hear what they have to say. Join with me in welcoming our new leaders and in promising them our prayers— Bishop-elect Hurley... Bishop-elect Quinn... Bishop-elect Reiss.