

**REMARKS
BY ADAM CARDINAL MAIDA
ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF
BISHOP-ELECT DANIEL FLORES
AN AUXILIARY BISHOP
SACRED HEART MAJOR SEMINARY
OCTOBER 28, 2006**

Monsignor Monforton and Members of the Faculty and Administration, Donors and Benefactors of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Seminarians, and my dear brothers and sisters from the Hispanic community in the Archdiocese of Detroit:

Today's events were planned some time ago to dedicate the donor recognition garden at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. However, unbeknownst to us at the time we organized this event, the Holy Father has provided us, on this very day, with a tremendous gift and blessing to help nurture the faith in the vineyard of our local church...and so, today I am pleased to make a very special announcement before we continue with our prayer service. This morning, it was announced at the Vatican that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has appointed a new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. I am pleased to introduce to you today for the first time our newest auxiliary bishop: Monsignor Daniel Flores from the diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas. I would ask Bishop-elect Flores to please stand as we say "congratulations" and, if you will allow me to attempt a bit of Spanish, "*felicidades.*"

In naming Bishop-elect Flores to serve the Church of Detroit, the Holy Father is acknowledging the many outstanding credentials that Bishop-elect Flores possesses. More importantly for all of us in Detroit is that we will be blessed with another shepherd to help serve and love the people of God.

Bishop-elect Flores has served with distinction in all of his varied assignments: from associate pastor to rector of the Corpus Christi Cathedral, as chancellor of the diocese of Corpus Christi and Vice-Rector of Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston. He possesses a doctorate in theology from the Angelicum University in Rome and has taught courses ranging from Patristics to Modern Catholic Literature. His reputation for pastoral excellence is outstanding...and, on a lighter note, he's a big baseball fan, too, so we look forward to having him cheer on our Detroit Tigers!

While Bishop-elect Flores is new to our archdiocese, and we are just beginning to get acquainted, the good people of Corpus Christi know him well. In fact, my friend Bishop Carmody, gives Bishop-elect Flores glowing praise and his strong endorsement. He describes our new bishop as *“a great person and leader, who has served the diocese as a kind, pastoral, intelligent, highly-organized, dedicated, priest-servant.”* Bishop Carmody praised the wonderful work of Bishop-elect Flores as rector of their cathedral. He says that our new bishop has been actively *“increasing attendance, hosting spiritual renewal programs, and relating to everybody: young, middle-aged and elderly.”* Bishop Carmody sums it up by saying, *“the Detroit archdiocese will be blessed to have him as auxiliary bishop.”*

I agree with Bishop Carmody: Bishop-elect Flores, we are truly blessed to have you as an auxiliary bishop. Thank you – “gracias” – for your willingness to serve here in Detroit.

I am particularly delighted that Bishop-elect Flores will be the first Hispanic bishop to serve in Detroit. Our Archdiocesan-wide pastoral planning process, Together in Faith, specifically stated that our local church should *“identify and track the needs of emerging ethnic groups on a regular basis”* and noted that *“every vicariate has people of Hispanic origins within its boundaries.”* Conservatively, we know that there are at least 130,000 Hispanic Catholics within the archdiocese. Those numbers tell us that our Hispanic community is no longer an “emerging ethnic group;” rather, our Latino and Latina brothers and sisters are the Church of today ... a vibrant and active community, making many important contributions right now in our local church. I am committed to expanding our awareness of and sensitivity to all of the members of our family of faith, from whatever background they may come. I am delighted that Bishop-elect Flores is now part of our team in Detroit to help make these plans a reality.

Bishop-elect Flores, we welcome you with open arms and look to the future with hope, knowing that God will be blessing us through your ministry. May God bless you now and always. My brothers and sisters, let us together welcome our newest auxiliary: Bishop-elect Daniel Flores!

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