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Cardinal Maida will Introduce Archbishop-elect Vigneron at News Conference Pope Benedict Names New Archbishop for Detroit

Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Allen Henry Vigneron, 60, of the Diocese of Oakland, California, as the new Archbishop of Detroit. Installation of the new archbishop has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, at Detroit's Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

As required by Church law, Cardinal Maida submitted his resignation to the Holy Father when he turned 75, in March of 2005. Pope Benedict then invited Cardinal Maida to continue as Archbishop of Detroit. Cardinal Maida's resignation has now been accepted; he will, however, serve as apostolic administrator of the archdiocese during this month's transition.

Cardinal Adam Maida will introduce his successor, Archbishop-elect Allen Vigneron, at a news conference on Monday, January 5, at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Boulevard at Linwood, Detroit.

Archbishop-elect Vigneron was born in Mt. Clemens and grew up in Immaculate Conception Parish, Anchorville. He attended Immaculate Conception Grade School before going on to Detroit's Sacred Heart Seminary High School and College. Later, he studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Prior to being named Bishop of Oakland, California, in 2003, Archbishop-elect Vigneron was an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit. His background includes assignments as rector/president of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, work in the Administrative Section of the Vatican Secretariat of State, and service as associate pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Harper Woods.

In his remarks, Archbishop-elect Vigneron expressed his gratitude to Pope Benedict, acknowledged Cardinal Maida's welcome home, and addressed southeast Michigan's economic struggle. "I recognize that this challenge for our civic community is – as all societal problems are – a pastoral challenge as well. To that challenge," he said, "I want to bring all the riches of grace which the Holy Spirit has bestowed on the Church."

As Archbishop of Detroit, Archbishop-elect Vigneron will be the chief shepherd of 1.4 million Catholics who reside in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Lapeer, and St. Clair Counties. Assisting him in his duties will be Auxiliary Bishops Daniel Flores and Francis Reiss and retired Auxiliary Bishops Moses Anderson, SSE, and Thomas Gumbleton.

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*****Special Note to Media Representatives: You are invited to cover this event. For more information, call 313-237-5943. A biographical summary, pictures, statements from Archbishop-elect Vigneron and Cardinal Maida, and other materials will be posted on the web at www.AODonline.org/archbishop.**

Archbishop-elect Allen H. Vigneron Biographical Summary

Bishop Allen Vigneron was born in Mt. Clemens, Michigan on October 21, 1948, to Elwin and Bernardine (Kott) Vigneron of Fair Haven, Michigan. The eldest of six children (four brothers, one sister), he grew up in Immaculate Conception Parish, Anchorville, attending the parish grade school through eighth grade.

With encouragement from his parents, family, grade school principal and pastor, Bishop Vigneron entered the high school program of Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, in September 1962. After completing the 12th grade, he continued there for college. In June 1970, Bishop Vigneron graduated with his AB degree with majors in both philosophy and classical languages.

After Sacred Heart, he was sent to Rome to continue his theological education at the Pontifical Gregorian University while living at the North American College, a house of formation for seminarians from the United States. He earned an STB (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) degree in 1973, and in 1974 returned home to serve his transitional deacon internship at St. Clement of Rome Parish, Romeo.

Bishop Vigneron was ordained to the priesthood in the Detroit Presbyterate on July 26, 1975 at St. Clement of Rome Church by the late Cardinal John Dearden. His first assignment as a priest was as associate pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Harper Woods. He returned to Rome in 1976 for a year of study to complete the work required for his STL (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) degree, which he earned from the Gregorian University in 1977. Later that year, he returned to Michigan to resume his duties as associate pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Cardinal Dearden assigned Bishop Vigneron to begin graduate studies in the School of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in the fall of 1979. He earned his MA in philosophy in 1983 and his Ph.D. in that field in May 1987 with a dissertation on the German philosopher Edmund Husserl, the father of phenomenology. In January 1985, before completing his dissertation, Bishop Vigneron returned to Detroit to teach philosophy and theology at Sacred Heart College Seminary. In January 1988, he was appointed dean of that school and became a key member of the team working to realize Cardinal Edmund Szoka's vision for the transformation of the institution into a "major seminary" offering graduate theological education.

In the fall of 1991, Bishop Vigneron returned to Rome to serve as an official of the Administrative Section of the Vatican Secretariat of State. While there, he was an adjunct instructor at the Gregorian University. In spring of 1994, Bishop Vigneron returned to Detroit to become the second Rector/President of the re-founded Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

On June 12, 1996, Bishop Vigneron was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit and received Episcopal ordination from Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, on July 9 of that year. In addition to continuing to fill the office of seminary rector, Bishop Vigneron was given responsibility for the pastoral support of what was then called the Northeast region of the Detroit Archdiocese. On January 10, 2003, he was named Coadjutor Bishop of Oakland, California, and succeeded to the See of Oakland on October 1, 2003.

Bishop Vigneron oversaw the design and construction of the new 1350-seat Cathedral of Christ the Light situated in a complex that includes Chancery offices, conference center facilities, a bookstore and a public plaza located adjacent to Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland. The Cathedral was dedicated for sacred use on September 25, 2008.

In the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Vigneron has served on the Committee for the American College in Louvain, the Committee on Doctrine and the Subcommittee on the Catechism.

Bishop Vigneron is a trustee of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, St. Patrick Seminary (Menlo Park, CA) and the Catholic University of America. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Association of Theological Schools and on the board of the Detroit chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly "The National Conference of Christians and Jews"), and the board of Ave Maria University (Naples, FL.).

Essays / Articles Published by
The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron

1. Vigneron, Allen. H. "Renewed Celibate Living for Heralds of the New Evangelization," Chaste Celibacy: Living Christ's Own Spousal Love. First Annual Symposium on the Spirituality of and Identity of the Diocesan Priest (Omaha, Nebraska: The Institute for Priestly Formation, 2001), pp. 13-27.
2. _____. "The Christian Mystery and the Presence and Absence of God," The Truthful and the Good: Essays in Honor of Robert Sokolowski, eds. John J. Drummond and James G. Hart. Contributions to Phenomenology (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1996), pp. 181-189.
3. _____. "The New Evangelization and the Teaching of Philosophy," The Two Wings of Catholic Thought: Essays on *Fides et Ratio*, eds. David Ruel Foster and Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2003), pp. 91-108.

Introduction of Archbishop-elect Vigneron
by Cardinal Maida
Sacred Heart Major Seminary
5 January 2009

As we read in the book of Ecclesiastes, “*There is an appointed time for everything...A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...A time to seek, and a time to lose...God has made everything appropriate to its time...[and] I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it.*” (Ecclesiastes 3)

For the past eighteen years, I have lived in a time of grace and blessing, privileged and humbled to serve as the Archbishop of Detroit. Nearly four years ago, when I turned 75, I submitted my resignation to the Holy Father as required by Canon Law. But God had other plans and so my resignation was not accepted until today.

I am grateful to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI and to his predecessor, the Servant of God Pope John Paul II. They have afforded me the great honor to serve as the Archbishop of Detroit. But as the writer of Ecclesiastes indicates, now is a time for change. I am delighted to introduce the 10th bishop and the 5th archbishop to lead this great metropolitan see: Archbishop-designate Allen Vigneron. He is the first son of this diocese to be appointed as its chief shepherd. Archbishop Vigneron is well-known in Detroit, the United States and throughout the world. He has served in parish ministry, on the faculty at Sacred Heart Seminary, on the staff of the Secretariat of State in the Vatican, as Rector-President of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, as an auxiliary bishop of Detroit, and most recently as Bishop of Oakland, California.

Archbishop Vigneron is coming home after having left for Oakland almost six years ago. Both the Holy Spirit and the Holy Father know of Archbishop Vigneron’s gifts and talents as well as the many needs that we have here in Detroit. Over the years, I have valued his friendship and come to appreciate his wisdom, pastoral sensitivity, and loving care for all those in need. It is a great blessing to have him return back to us.

I know that I speak for Cardinal Szoka when I say that both of us, as former ordinaries of this archdiocese, offer our congratulations and assistance to continue to be of service to the Church and to you Archbishop Vigneron in whatever way we can.

Archbishop Vigneron, thank you for saying “yes” to the Holy Father’s invitation to serve here in Detroit. Like the *fiat* of our Blessed Mother, your *fiat*, your “yes” will unfold for you many blessings and opportunities. Through her intercession and God’s grace, may you find your ministry here to be fulfilling, life-giving, and filled with abundant blessings. Archbishop Vigneron, welcome home!

Remarks for News Conference
Archbishop-elect Vigneron
Detroit, MI
5 January 2009

Today marks the first page in a new chapter of both my life's story and that of the Church in the Archdiocese of Detroit. As part of that record, I would like to share with you a little of what fills my mind and heart today.

Shortly after New Year's 2003, I learned that Pope John Paul II was sending me to California to be the bishop of the Church in Oakland. I went willingly because I was confident that in accepting this mission I was embracing God's loving will for me: Christ had spoken through His Vicar. Now, six years later, His Vicar has spoken again, and it is with that same trusting faith that I take up my new mission as the Archbishop of Detroit.

I come to this moment with great praise and thanks to God the Father because of His gracious Providence, for in providing for the needs of His Church, He is filling my life with the blessings that are sure to come from my service of His people in Southeast Michigan.

I take this opportunity to express, also, my gratitude to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for the confidence he has shown in me by calling me to be the principal pastor of the Archdiocese of Detroit. My answer of "yes" to his call is the fruit of my communion with him, the Successor of Peter, in the life and faith handed on to us from the Apostles. I have promised him, and I promise all the faithful of the archdiocese, that this Catholic communion will be the touchstone of my ministry in the archdiocese.

I deeply appreciate the warm welcome which Cardinal Maida has extended to me from the very first that he learned of my appointment. We have worked closely together in the past; I have no doubt that in the new set of relationships into which we are now entering, we will continue to collaborate effectively for the building up of the Church. As I begin the process of taking over from Cardinal Maida the pastoral care of the archdiocese, it is not too soon to pay tribute to him for his wise leadership and generous service.

On this first day of my appointment as archbishop, my thoughts and prayers are particularly focused on the priests, the deacons and seminarians, the religious and the lay faithful I will serve here. Because I am a son of this archdiocese, they have long been dear to me. Now that I have become the spiritual father of this local Church, they are even dearer. With the help of God's grace, I will love them and care for them; and I look forward to receiving from them the love for me which the Holy Spirit will stir up in their hearts.

When I began my remarks, I made reference to the new chapter in the history of the archdiocese which begins today. The unfolding of the Church's history always occurs within the context of the history of the age. Today, here, that means Southeast Michigan's struggle to find a new way to establish a vibrant economy, so that families have sufficient resources to obtain not only the material goods, but the spiritual as well, that they need in order to flourish. I recognize that this challenge for our civic community is – as all societal problems are – a pastoral challenge as well. To that challenge, as I begin my service as archbishop, I want to bring all the riches of grace which the Holy Spirit has bestowed on the Church.

By my reckoning, two particular graces stand out: the grace of hope and the grace of wisdom.

About the grace of wisdom: In the matter of solving even the most practical problems, while material resources are important, human creativity and intelligence are the resources which count the most. The Church, with the wealth of her social teaching, has a particular set of insights to contribute towards the solution of our economic problems. In my service as archbishop, I will do all that I can to see to it that these spiritual resources are available to those responsible for charting our community's way forward.

About the grace of hope: The flag and seal of the City of Detroit speak hope – *Spera meliora*, "Hope for better things." Even more than a call for, they command us to hope. Were this hope founded only in ourselves alone, it would inevitably disappoint. But the Christian community which I am being appointed to lead testifies that we are right to hope even in times of trial, because our hope is rooted in God who is faithful, in the Father, who in Jesus Christ, has come to dwell with us and will never abandon us. This hope, born of faith, is an invaluable contribution which the Catholics of the archdiocese offer our community as we face the social and economic changes of our time.

As I move toward the end of these remarks, I want to express my respect and love for the Church in Oakland: for her priests and deacons and for the people we have served together. Even though I experience great peace in accepting the call to Detroit because I know it is God's will, this peace comes with great sadness at parting. My years of pastoral service in the Diocese of Oakland, while not without significant challenges, have been filled with blessings I will never forget.

It is with these thoughts and feelings and aspirations that I come to Detroit. And at this new beginning, as I was taught so often in the churches and chapels and schools of the archdiocese, I entrust everything to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

History of Bishops Affiliated with the Church of Detroit (1833-2009)
Established a Diocese by His Holiness, Pope Gregory XVI on 8 March 1833
Created an Archbishopric by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI on 3 August 1937

His Excellency, Right Reverend Frederick John Conrad RÉSÉ

Born: 6 February 1791 (Vienenberg, Germany)
Ordained Priest: 15 March 1823
Appointed First Bishop of Detroit: 25 February 1833
Ordained and Installed Bishop of Detroit: 6 October 1833
Resigned: 19 August 1840
Died: 30 December 1871

His Excellency, Right Reverend Peter Paul LEFEVERE (Lefebvre)

Born: 30 April 1804 (Roulers, Belgium)
Ordained Priest: 30 November 1831
Appointed Coadjutor (Second) Bishop of Detroit and Titular Bishop of Zela: 23 July 1841
Ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Detroit: 21 November 1841
Died: 4 March 1869

His Excellency, Right Reverend Caspar Henry BORGESS

Born: 1 August 1826 (Addrup, Germany)
Ordained Priest (Cincinnati): 8 December 1848
Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Detroit and Titular Bishop of Calydon: 14 February 1870
Ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Detroit: 24 April 1870
Succeeded as Third Bishop of Detroit: 30 December 1871
Resigned and Appointed Titular Bishop of Phacusa: 16 April 1887
Died: 3 May 1890

His Excellency, Right Reverend John Samuel FOLEY

Born: 5 November 1833 (Baltimore, Maryland)
Ordained Priest (Baltimore): 20 December 1856
Appointed Fourth Bishop of Detroit: 11 February 1888
Ordained and Installed Bishop of Detroit: 4 November 1888
Died: 5 January 1918

His Excellency, Most Reverend Michael James GALLAGHER

Born: 16 November 1866 (Auburn, Michigan)
Ordained Priest (Grand Rapids): 19 March 1893
Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids and Titular Bishop of Tipasa in Mauretania: 5 July 1915
Ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Grand Rapids: 8 September 1915
Succeeded as Second Bishop of Grand Rapids: 26 December 1916
Appointed Fifth Bishop of Detroit: 18 July 1918
Installed Bishop of Detroit: 18 November 1918
Died: 20 January 1937

His Eminence, Edward Aloysius Cardinal MOONEY

Born: 9 May 1882 (Mount Savage, Maryland)
Ordained Priest (Cleveland): 10 April 1909
Appointed Apostolic Delegate to India and Titular Archbishop of Irenopolis in Isauria: 21 January 1926
Ordained Titular Archbishop of Irenopolis in Isauria: 31 January 1926
Appointed Apostolic Delegate to Japan: 30 March 1931
Appointed Fourth Bishop (Archbishop) of Rochester, New York: 28 August 1933
Appointed Sixth Ordinary and First Archbishop of Detroit: 31 May 1937
Installed First Archbishop of Detroit: 3 August 1937
Created Cardinal Priest of Santa Susanna, Roma: 18 February 1946
Died: 25 October 1958 (Rome)

His Eminence, John Francis Cardinal DEARDEN

Born: 15 October 1907 (Valley Falls, RI)
Ordained Priest (Cleveland): 8 December 1932
Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh and Titular Bishop of Sarepta: 13 March 1948
Ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh: 18 May 1948
Succeeded as Seventh Bishop of Pittsburgh: 22 December 1950
Appointed Seventh Ordinary and Second Archbishop of Detroit: 18 December 1958
Installed Archbishop of Detroit: 29 January 1959
Created Cardinal Priest of S. Pio X alla Balduina, Roma: 28 April 1969
Resigned: 15 July 1980
Died: 1 August 1988

His Eminence, Edmund Casimir Cardinal SZOKA

Born: 14 September 1927 (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
Ordained Priest (Marquette): 5 June 1954
Appointed First Bishop of Gaylord: 11 June 1971
Ordained and Installed Bishop of Gaylord: 20 July 1971
Appointed Eighth Ordinary and Third Archbishop of Detroit: 28 March 1981
Installed Archbishop of Detroit: 17 May 1981
Created Cardinal Priest of SS. Andrea e Gregorio al Monte Cielo, Roma: 28 June 1988
Appointed President of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See: 28 April 1990
Appointed President of the Governatorate of Vatican City State: 15 October 1997
Appointed President of Vatican City State: 22 February 2001
Resigned: 14 September 2007

His Eminence, Adam Joseph Cardinal MAIDA

Born: 18 March 1930 (East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania)
Ordained Priest (Pittsburgh): 26 May 1956
Appointed Ninth Bishop of Green Bay: 8 November 1983
Ordained and Installed Bishop of Green Bay: 25 January 1984
Appointed Ninth Ordinary and Fourth Archbishop of Detroit: 28 April 1990
Installed Archbishop of Detroit: 12 June 1990
Created Cardinal Priest of SS. Vitale, Valeria, Gervasio e Protasio, Roma: 26 November 1994
Appointed Superior of the Cayman Islands, Antilles: 14 July 2000
Appointed Apostolic Administrator of Archdiocese of Detroit: 5 – 28 January 2009

His Excellency, Right Reverend Allen Henry VIGNERON

Born: 21 October 1948 (Mount Clemens, Michigan)

Ordained Detroit Priest: 26 July 1975

Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and Titular Bishop of Sault Sainte Marie: 12 June 1996

Ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit: 9 July 1996

Appointed Coadjutor Bishop of Oakland: 10 January 2003

Installed Coadjutor Bishop of Oakland: 26 February 2003

Succeeded as Third Bishop of Oakland: 1 October 2003

Appointed Tenth Ordinary and Fifth Archbishop of Detroit: 5 January 2009

Installed Archbishop of Detroit: 28 January 2009

Comparing the Archdiocese of Detroit and the Diocese of Oakland



	Archdiocese of Detroit	Diocese of Oakland
Catholic Population	1,434,622	560,000
Number of Parishes	281	86
Number of Catholic Schools	106	60
Number of Priests	652	277
Arch/Bishops Emeritus	Cardinal Edmund Szoka	Bishop John Cummins
Auxiliary Bishops	Bishop Daniel Flores Bishop Francis Reiss Bishop Moses Anderson SSE (ret.) Bishop Thomas Gumbleton (ret.)	
Total Land Area	3,901 square miles	1,623 square miles
Counties	Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Lapeer and St. Clair	Alameda and Contra Costa
Celebrates Mass in	14 Languages	17 Languages
Established	8 March 1833	13 January 1962
Newspaper of Record	The Michigan Catholic	The Catholic Voice
Catholic Radio	WCAR 1090 AM WDEO 990 AM	KSFB 1260 AM
Catholic Television	CTND (EWTN affiliate)	EWTN
Website	www.aodonline.org	www.oakdiocese.org

Archbishop Transition FAQ

How is a new archbishop chosen?

Canon 401 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law states that all bishops must submit their resignation to the Pope at the age of 75. The pope can accept their resignation at that time, or ask them to stay on until their successor is chosen. All aspects of the process of choosing a successor are supposed to be confidential, but there are some things that are known. The papal nuncio will present a list of candidates for investigation to (in the case of the U.S.) the Congregation of the Bishops in the Roman Curia. The Congregation then reports to the Pope, who makes the final decision.

Does the new archbishop have to be a bishop already?

Though it happens very rarely, a newly-named archbishop need not be a bishop first. In this case, however, the new archbishop would need to be ordained as a bishop before he could be installed as an archbishop.

What's the difference between an archbishop and a bishop?

An archbishop is the head of diocese that is considered to be particularly important for some reason (an archdiocese). In sacred matters, an archbishop is the equivalent of a bishop, but “archbishop” is considered to be a more prestigious title. As the residential bishop, an archbishop is also known as the local ordinary.

How does an archbishop relate to his ecclesiastical province?

An archdiocese, called the *metropolitan see*, and dioceses under it, called *suffragan sees*, are grouped into a province. The Code of Canon Law spells out certain limited obligations and authority that the metropolitan archbishop has with respect to the dioceses within his ecclesiastical province. The Province of Detroit includes the seven dioceses in Michigan. Detroit's archbishop serves as the metropolitan.

How does Detroit's archbishop relate to the Michigan Catholic Conference?

Founded in 1963, the Michigan Catholic Conference serves as the official voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan on matters of public policy. The Board of Directors is comprised of the seven diocesan bishops plus five lay persons, one priest, and one religious sister. The Archbishop of Detroit serves as chairman.

What's the difference between an archbishop and a cardinal?

Cardinals are senior ecclesial officials in the Catholic Church. A cardinal's duties include attending meetings of the College of Cardinals and being available—personally or collectively—to the Pope for counsel. Most cardinals have additional duties within the Church, such as leading a diocese or heading a department in the Roman Curia. The College of Cardinals also is the body that elects a new pope.

Will Cardinal Maida still be a Cardinal?

Yes. He will hold the title of Cardinal for the rest of his life. However, only cardinals under the age of 80 can sit in the Conclave that elects a new pope.

Can Cardinal Maida still vote for the next pope?

It depends on when there will be a need for another conclave. If a new conclave is needed before Cardinal Maida's 80th birthday, on March 18, 2010, then he can participate in the conclave and vote for the next pope. However, after the age of 80, cardinals cannot sit in the Conclave.

Who is the longest-serving Cardinal?

Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan, retired archbishop of Seoul, South Korea and Cardinal Eugênio de Araújo Sales, retired archbishop of São Sebastião de Rio de Janeiro are the two longest-serving cardinals, both appointed by Pope Paul VI at the consistory of April 28, 1969.

Cardinal William Wakefield Baum, appointed by Pope Paul VI at the consistory of May 24, 1976, is the longest-serving American cardinal.

Cardinal Paul Mayer, OSB, of Germany is the oldest living cardinal, born in 1911. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II at the consistory of May 25, 1985.

Who are the oldest and youngest serving Bishops? Archbishops?

The youngest bishop is 38-year-old Bishop Mihai Cătălin Frățilă of Romania.

Bishop Francis Hong Yong-ho of Pyongyang, South Korea, is the longest-serving bishop, having been ordained a bishop on June 29, 1944. He is 102 years old.