

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

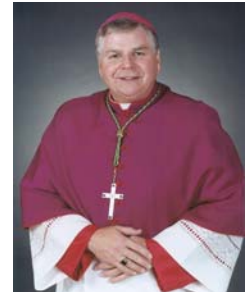
NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pope Benedict XVI Names New Bishop for Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo



KALAMAZOO, Mich.: April 6, 2009: Pope Benedict XVI has appointed a new Bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. Auxiliary Bishop Paul J. Bradley, 63, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will become the fourth Bishop of Kalamazoo succeeding Bishop James A. Murray who has led the diocese since January 27, 1998. Installation of the new Bishop has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday, June 5, at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

As required by Church law, Bishop Murray submitted his resignation to the Holy Father when he turned 75, in July of 2007. Bishop Murray will continue as Bishop of the diocese until Bishop-designate Bradley's installation.

The son of John and Cecilia Bradley, Bishop Paul J. Bradley was born on October 18, 1945, in Glassport, Pa. He attended St. Cecilia Grade School and attended high school, college and graduate theology studies at St. Meinrad Seminary, St. Meinrad, Indiana. He also earned a Master's in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh on May 1, 1971 by Bishop Vincent M. Leonard, Bishop Bradley served for the next 12 years as a parochial vicar. From 1983 until 1994 he held a number of diocesan positions including director of the Office for Family Life and Secretary for Human Services. He returned to his home parish, St. Sebastian, in 1994 and remained as pastor until 2001 when he was named rector and pastor of St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh.

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In 2003 Bishop Bradley was named General Secretary and Vicar for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, responsible for the overall direction of the operations, programs and activities of the central administration of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Bishop Bradley was appointed Titular Bishop of Afufenia and Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh on December 16, 2004 and was ordained on February 2, 2005. When Bishop Donald Wuerl was installed as the Archbishop of Washington, D.C. in June 2006, Bishop Bradley was elected administrator of the Diocese of Pittsburgh by the diocesan College of Consultors. He oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Diocese until Bishop Zubik's installation on September 28, 2007.

"I want to express my deep gratitude to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, for the trust he has placed in me by appointing me as the Bishop of Kalamazoo," said Bishop-designate Paul J. Bradley. "I am both humbled and excited by this great opportunity to serve the Church as your shepherd."

As Bishop of Kalamazoo, Bishop-designate Bradley will be the chief shepherd of the more than 100,000 Catholics who reside in Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch counties.

-30-

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop James A. Murray. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and has grown to include 46 parishes and 13 missions as well as 22 Catholic schools.