

NEWS

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NOTICE TO AREA MEDIA
Monday, July 14, 2008
Release #420

Pope names Minneapolis Native Reverend John M. LeVoir as Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm

New Ulm, MN - Pope Benedict XVI has named Rev. John M. LeVoir, 62, as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm, MN. The announcement was made in Washington, July 14, by Msgr. Martin Krebs, *charge d'affaires* of the Apostolic nunciature to the Holy See. Bishop-designate LeVoir succeeds Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, third bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm, who was named Coadjutor Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on April 24, 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Nienstedt remained Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of New Ulm until December 13, 2007 and on May 2, 2008 succeeded Archbishop Harry J. Flynn as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Msgr. Douglas L. Grams has served as Diocesan Administrator since December.

John M. LeVoir was born February 7, 1946 to Marvin A. and Mary A. LeVoir in Minneapolis, MN. He has two brothers and one sister. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry in 1968 from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul; a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in accounting in 1971 from the University of Minnesota, becoming a certified public accountant in 1973; a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1974 from the University of Minnesota; and a Master of Arts degree in theology in 1981 from the St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Prior to his ordination, he was employed from 1971-1976 as a public accountant for several firms and also as an instructor of accounting at the University of Minnesota.

He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on May 30, 1981 by Archbishop John R. Roach at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Following ordination, he served as Associate Pastor of the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in St. Anthony from 1981-1992; Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity in South St. Paul from 1992-2004; Pastor of the Church of St. Augustine in South St. Paul from 2000-2004. Since 2004, he has served as Pastor of the Church of St. Michael and the Church of St. Mary in Stillwater.

His publications include: *Covenant of Love: Pope John Paul II on Sexuality, Marriage and the Family*; *Faith for Today: Pope John Paul II's Catechetical Teachings*; and *Image of God Religion Series* - theological consultant and author.

The Diocese of New Ulm is comprised of 15 counties in southern Minnesota, a total of 9,863 square miles. The total population is 285,338 with a Catholic population of 68,087.

On July 14, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop-designate John M. LeVoir as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota. A date for Bishop-designate John M. LeVoir's episcopal ordination and installation has not been set.

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Note to Media: *Diocesan Administrator, Msgr. Douglas L. Grams, will officially release this announcement and introduce Bishop-designate John M. LeVoir to the media during a brief press conference, Monday, July 14, 2008, 1:30 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1400 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN. Please directly contact the Office of Communications, (507) 233-5332 if you plan to attend.*

Photo: *An electronic photo of Bishop-designate LeVoir will be available on the New Ulm diocesan Web site at www.dnu.org on Monday, July 14.*