



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, October 13, 2018

CONTACT:

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Statement from Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, on the Holy Father's Acceptance of His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl's Resignation as Archbishop of Washington

“In light of our Holy Father’s acceptance of Cardinal Wuerl’s resignation, I wish to recognize and thank His Eminence for his wonderful and generous work to promote, accompany, and support the diversity and multicultural spectrum of our Archdiocese. This work is rooted in his consistent referral to the Church in Washington as the Church of many faces and races, to embrace and accompany.

Through the years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the impact of Cardinal Wuerl’s work on the Archdiocese through Catholic Charities and the Spanish Catholic Center. The quality of services at the Spanish Catholic Center improved tremendously going from four dental chairs to twelve, opening of the new state of the art medical clinic in Maryland, increased training programs, and the expansion of the number of attorneys and paralegals focusing on immigration services.

Being aware of the difficult times that the immigrant community is experiencing, His Eminence’s participation in the Archdiocesan and Regional Encuentro was on target and a powerful witness. By giving example to the need of the Church to continue to walk with our children, youth, and families, His Eminence promoted the real sense of solidarity in the lives of people who are building our nation.

Lastly, but most importantly, being aware of the need to serve the immigrant community in their own language, His Eminence has endorsed and engaged conversations with regional bishops to promote a Spanish cultural immersion learning experience, to which twelve Archdiocesan priests have participated. The program, beginning four years ago, has brought many fruitful outcomes for our own priest’s ability to serve and evangelize our own community.

These examples are only a few of the many reasons why the multicultural immigrant groups of the Archdiocese are very grateful to Cardinal Wuerl for his presence, his love, and commitment to serve the poor and to foster the real mission of implementing the enculturation of the Gospel into their lives.”

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Statement from Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, on the Holy Father's Acceptance of His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl's Resignation as Archbishop of Washington

"It is with my heartfelt love and thanks that I express my gratitude to Your Eminence, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, for your love and pastoral care of the lay faithful, religious and clergy of the Archdiocese of Washington for the past twelve years as our Archbishop. With that same love and thanks, I remember and thank you for the pastoral care and guidance that you have given me personally over that same twelve years.

I had the honor of being the first man you ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ as Archbishop of Washington. During my first year of priestly ministry, I twice requested an appointment with you to discuss matters of concern for me. Each time, you stopped what you were doing to say, "Let's talk now." I realized that what was of concern for me, was of concern for you. That is the love and concern you have shown to all the people you cared for as Archbishop of Washington, lay faithful, religious, as well as clergy.

The generosity of your time and the wisdom of your counsel helped me to love and care for the people of God that you have assigned me to, first as a Parochial Vicar, then as a Pastor, and now sharing more fully in your Episcopal ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

It is that love and care for God's children in this Archdiocese that led you to ask our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to accept the resignation that you submitted to him almost three years ago. The desire to do what is best for the people of God in the Archdiocese of Washington will be your example of being a true shepherd, that I will try to emulate in my Episcopal ministry. Cardinal Wuerl, may God continue to bless you in this period of transition and beyond."

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Statement from Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, on the Holy Father's Acceptance of His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl's Resignation as Archbishop of Washington

“With the acceptance of the resignation of His Eminence, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, by the Holy Father, I want to express my deepest sense of gratitude and admiration for the ministry and care Cardinal Wuerl has provided for the good of this local and universal Church as our archbishop. Cardinal Wuerl's decision to request that the Holy Father accept his resignation reflects a selfless shepherd's heart devoted to the well-being of his flock.

In my ministry as archdiocesan Vicar for Clergy and now his most recent Auxiliary Bishop, I have personally witnessed Cardinal Wuerl's unwavering devotion, untiring energy and meticulous understanding of his responsibilities for the care and love of the laity, religious and clergy of this Archdiocese. To me personally, he has been a mentor and example of priestly ministry these past twelve years.

The Archdiocese of Washington is blessed with many wonderful priests, deacons, and religious who serve, day in and day out, the people of our parishes throughout this Archdiocese. Our parishes are thriving, Catholic schools are flourishing, and services to the poor and needy are providing vital support to the greater community. In this transition, it should be recognized that the Archdiocese is in a healthy state, spiritually, pastorally, and administratively due to the dedication and ministry of Cardinal Wuerl. I have seen firsthand his care of the souls of the faithful, and attention to the formation and ongoing support of the presbyterate. Many times, I have seen him express the compassionate heart of a shepherd for laity and clergy alike.

I thank God for Cardinal Wuerl's priestly example and episcopal ministry. He has inspired and encouraged me as a new bishop always to love and serve God's people, following Our Lord's example. May God continue to bless and protect the good people of the Archdiocese of Washington during this time of transition.”

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