

ARCHBISHOP WILTON D. GREGORY

ARCHBISHOP-DESIGNATE OF WASHINGTON

Archbishop Wilton Gregory was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1973 and was named an auxiliary bishop in 1983. He was named Bishop of Belleville in 1994 where he served for eleven years before being named by Pope John Paul II as the sixth Archbishop of Atlanta in 2005. Archbishop Gregory will be the seventh Archbishop of Washington.



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory was born December 7, 1947 in Chicago to Wilton Sr. and Ethel Duncan Gregory; he has two sisters, Elaine and Claudia. He attended St. Carthage Grammar School, where he converted to Catholicism. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College (now St. Joseph's College Seminary) of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 9, 1973, and three years after his ordination began graduate studies at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome. There he earned his doctorate in sacred liturgy in 1980.

After having served as an associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, IL as a member of the faculty of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein and as a master of ceremonies to Cardinals John Cody and Joseph Bernardin, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Chicago on December 13, 1983. On February 10, 1994, he was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, IL where he served for the next eleven

years. On December 9, 2004, Pope Saint John Paul II appointed Bishop Gregory as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was installed on January 17, 2005.

Archbishop Gregory has served in many leading roles in the U.S. church. In November 2001, he was elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) following three years as vice president under Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. During his tenure in office, the crisis of sex abuse by Catholic clergy escalated; and under his leadership, the bishops implemented the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

He has served on the USCCB's Executive and Administrative Committees, the Administrative Board, the Committee on Doctrine and the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on International Policy. He previously served as the chairman of the Bishops' Committees on Personnel, Divine Worship and the Third Millennium/Jubilee Year 2000 from 1998-2001, and Liturgy from 1991-1993.

Archbishop Gregory has written extensively on church issues, including pastoral statements on the death penalty, euthanasia/physician-assisted suicide and has published numerous articles on the subject of liturgy, particularly in the African-American community.

Archbishop Gregory has been awarded nine honorary doctoral degrees. He received the Great Preacher Award from Saint Louis University in 2002; Doctorate of Humanities from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL (2002-2003); Sword of Loyola from Loyola University of Chicago (2004); Doctorate of Humane Letters from Spring Hill College in Mobile, AL (2005); Doctorate of Humane Letters from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH; Doctorate of Humane Letters from McKendree College in Lebanon, IL; Doctorate of Humanities from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, MO; Honorary Law Degree from Notre Dame University (2012); and the Chicago Catholic Theological Union Honorary Doctorate (2013).

In 2006 he joined an illustrious group of preachers with his induction into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta. At the National Pastoral Life Center in Washington, D.C., Archbishop Gregory was honored with the Cardinal Bernardin Award given by the Catholic Common Ground Initiative (2006).

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CARDINAL DONALD WUERL

APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Cardinal Donald Wuerl served as the sixth Archbishop of Washington from 2006-2018. On October 12, 2018, Pope Francis accepted the resignation that Cardinal Wuerl had offered on November 12, 2015, on the date of his 75th birthday.



Cardinal Wuerl was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI and participated in the March 2013 conclave that elected Pope Francis.

As Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Wuerl worked to expand educational opportunities for children and services to those in need, encouraged efforts to share the faith, championed the cause of religious freedom, led an effort to plan the Church's future outreach, utilized traditional and new media to spread the Gospel, and welcomed two popes to the nation's capital, Pope Benedict XVI in April 2008 and Pope Francis in September 2015.

He established the Saint John Paul II Seminary in 2011, the first seminary in the United States named after that saint. In June 2017, Cardinal Wuerl ordained the first three priests for the archdiocese from the original class that had first studied at the seminary.

Evangelization was a key component of Cardinal Wuerl's tenure in Washington, manifest in his 2010 pastoral letter on the New Evangelization and many efforts including for example Light the City, in which young adults invited people walking in downtown Washington to come inside the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle to pray. Most recently, more than 1,300 people became members of the Church at the 2018 Easter Vigil.

In 2014, Cardinal Wuerl marked the 75th anniversary of the archdiocese by convoking its first-ever Archdiocesan Synod, with the stated goal of "building the best Church we can be." The Synod's 200 participants from different backgrounds across the archdiocese drew on a widespread consultative effort – analyzing more than 15,000 suggestions from parish and regional listening sessions and online surveys – to chart a blueprint for the local Church's future outreach in the key areas of worship, education, community, service and stewardship/administration.

Under Cardinal Wuerl's leadership, "The Light is On For You" was launched in 2007 to encourage Catholics to go to Confession during Lent. This initiative is now widespread throughout the United States. The "Find the Perfect Gift" Advent campaign was instituted in 2010 to encourage people to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas and the gift of receiving and sharing faith in Jesus Christ, and to invite those who have been away from the Church to come home.

Nationally known as a teacher of the faith, Cardinal Wuerl expanded the archdiocese's communications outreach to include blogs, e-letters and various social and multi-media platforms. He is the author of numerous articles and more than a dozen books, including the best-selling catechisms, *The Teaching of Christ* and *The Catholic Way*. His recent books include *The Church* (2013), *The Light Is On For You* (2014), *Open to the Holy Spirit: Living the Gospel with Wisdom and Power* (2014), *The Marriage God Wants for You* (2015), *To the Martyrs* (2015) and *Ways to Pray* (2015).

Led by Cardinal Wuerl, the “Monumental Scholars Fund” was created in 2015 by the Consortium of Catholic Academies to provide tuition assistance and educational aid to disadvantaged children attending six Catholic schools in low-income neighborhoods in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

Additionally, Cardinal Wuerl published many pastoral letters, the most recent including *The Challenge of Racism Today*, saying the sin of racism must be recognized, confronted and overcome. Saying the time had come to “right a wrong” in 2018 he blessed and dedicated commemorative bronze plaques honoring unknown enslaved men, women and children buried throughout the archdiocese. That spring, the plaques were installed in the archdiocese’s five major Catholic cemeteries.

Following Pope Francis’ post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Cardinal Wuerl led the effort nationwide by issuing a pastoral plan, *Sharing the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family*, for parishes to expand outreach to people in different stages of married and family life.

In addition to his archdiocesan responsibilities, he serves on numerous national and international bodies and is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In this capacity, Cardinal Wuerl blessed and dedicated the Trinity Dome Mosaic in 2017, marking the completion of the artwork for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic Church in the United States.

He serves on a number of Vatican Congregations, Councils and Commissions including those for the Doctrine of the Faith and for Bishops. Cardinal Wuerl was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to help direct the October 2012 Synod of Bishops on The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith. He was also appointed by Pope Francis as a member of both the 2014 and the 2015 Synods on the Family.

The Cardinal was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and received graduate degrees from The Catholic University of America, the Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in theology from the University of Saint Thomas in Rome. He was ordained a bishop by Pope John Paul II on January 6, 1986, in Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome. He served as Auxiliary Bishop in Seattle until 1987 and then as Bishop of Pittsburgh for 18 years until his appointment to Washington. His titular church in Rome is Saint Peter in Chains.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 4, 2019

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Pope Francis Names Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as New Archbishop of Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Pope Francis today named Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as the seventh Archbishop of Washington. Archbishop Gregory is currently the Archbishop of Atlanta, and will succeed Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who served as Washington's archbishop from June 2006 to October 2018.

"I am deeply grateful to Pope Francis for this appointment to serve the Archdiocese of Washington and to work with all of the members of this faith community," said Archbishop Gregory. "I look forward to encountering and listening to the people of this local Church as we address the issues that face us and continue to grow in the Love of Christ that sustains us."

"With great joy, I welcome the news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has favored this local Church with the appointment of Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta, as the seventh Archbishop of Washington. I join all who appreciate his pastoral abilities, his intellectual gifts and his leadership qualities," said Cardinal Donald Wuerl who has served as apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Washington since last October. "As the Church of Washington opens a new chapter and looks to the future, we can all, with great confidence and enthusiasm, welcome our new shepherd."

The installation of Archbishop Gregory as the seventh Archbishop of Washington will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Archbishop Gregory's Biography

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory was born December 7, 1947 in Chicago to Wilton Sr. and Ethel Duncan Gregory; he has two sisters, Elaine and Claudia. He attended St. Carthage Grammar School, where he converted to Catholicism. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College (now St. Joseph's College Seminary) of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.

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Belleville, IL where he served for the next eleven years. On December 9, 2004, Pope Saint John Paul II appointed Bishop Gregory as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was installed on January 17, 2005.

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Archdiocese of Washington

Founded in 1939, the Archdiocese of Washington is home to over 655,000 Catholics who worship in 139 parishes located in Washington, DC and the five Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s. Each year, the 93 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese educate nearly 27,000 students. The largest non-public social service organization in the region, the archdiocese and its affiliated agencies, including Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and Victory Housing, provide shelter, food, counseling, medical care, legal assistance, employment training and more to more than 143,000 people each year. www.adw.org.

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Cardinal Wuerl Statement on Appointment of New Archbishop of Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Pope Francis today named Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta the new Archbishop of Washington. Archbishop-designate Gregory will succeed Cardinal Donald Wuerl who submitted his resignation to the Holy Father in November 2015 when he turned 75 years old, in accord with canon law.*

Cardinal Wuerl's statement on the news from the Vatican this morning is below:

“With great joy, I welcome the news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has favored this local Church with the appointment of Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta, as the seventh Archbishop of Washington. I join all who appreciate his pastoral abilities, his intellectual gifts and his leadership qualities.

“I have known Archbishop Gregory for many years. In working with him on a range of pastoral initiatives and programs, I have come to recognize how generously he shares his talents and his love for the Church.

“As the Church of Washington opens a new chapter and looks to the future, we can all, with great confidence and enthusiasm, welcome our new shepherd.”

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Statements from Auxiliary Bishops of Washington on the Appointment of New Archbishop of Washington

Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville:

“It is with great joy we receive the news that our Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta to be the seventh Archbishop of Washington. This appointment reflects the Holy Father’s love for our local church, for each one of us, and, especially, for our immigrant families in the Archdiocese.

“Archbishop Gregory, our new shepherd, has a long history of pastoral work and dedicated service to the Church in the United States over the past 35 years. We look forward to collaborating with Archbishop Gregory in the development of his ministry within the archdiocese and we pray to our Lord to continue assisting him with His wisdom and love during this time of transition.”

Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr.:

“It is with profound joy that I received the announcement of our Holy Father appointing Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, as the next Archbishop of Washington. Archbishop Gregory brings the pastoral, spiritual, intellectual and political gifts necessary to shepherd the people of God in the Church of Washington, encompassing the seat of government of the United States of America.

“I have come to know Archbishop Gregory over the past two years and have had the good fortune to work with him as a member of the Black Catholic Bishops of the United States. Archbishop Gregory will be able to identify with, and compassionately serve all of the people of this archdiocese, who represent very diverse ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds. I look forward to working closely with him in his ministry of leading and healing all who make up this Church and this community.”

Bishop Michael W. Fisher:

“With gratitude and joy I welcome the announcement that our Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta as the new Archbishop of Washington. The good people of the Archdiocese of Washington will be well served by Archbishop Gregory’s proven leadership and pastoral care.

“His experience and guidance as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops during the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People will be essential in our Church’s continued commitment to healing and accountability. The new archbishop will be shepherding diverse and vibrant parishes with zealous and faith-filled clergy and laity ready to assist him in his ministry.

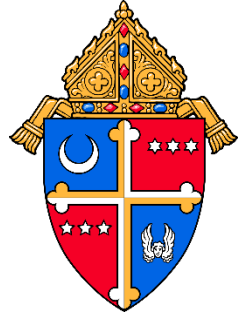
“I offer my heartfelt prayers and support to Archbishop Gregory as he assumes this new leadership position within the Church. I look forward to assisting him in meeting the pastoral needs of our archdiocese. May the Lord Jesus, and his mother, Mary, guide and protect him.”

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ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

AT A GLANCE

Located in the U.S. capital, the Archdiocese reflects the vibrant diversity of the Catholic Church in America



- **Active and Thriving:** More than 655,000 Catholics
 - **Schools:** 26,000 students in 93 Catholic schools
 - **Diversity:** Mass is celebrated in more than 20 languages weekly
 - **Vocations:** 85 seminarians studying to become priests for the archdiocese
 - **Service:** Catholic Charities serves more than 143,000 people annually
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Archdiocese of Washington Facts

- More than 655,000 parishioners who worship in 139 parishes in Washington, D.C. and five Maryland counties: Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's
- Established in 1939 by Pope Pius XII.
- Total priests serving the Archdiocese of Washington: 324
- Total number of seminarians: 85
- Washington, DC, is home to national entities such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and is the location of three Catholic universities: The Catholic University of America, Georgetown University, and Trinity University.
- Hosted Pope John Paul II in 1979, Pope Benedict XVI in 2008, and Pope Francis in 2015.

Catholic Education in the Archdiocese

- Total number of students in Catholic schools: approximately 26,000
- Number of schools: 93, including early childhood centers, elementary and high schools
- Awards more than \$6 million in tuition assistance to Catholic school students each year
- Success: 99% of Catholic high school students graduate and 97% of Catholic high school graduates go on to college
- Approximately 22,000 students in parish elementary and high school religious education programs

Diversity

- Mass is celebrated in more than 20 languages each week, including Spanish, French, Italian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Portuguese, Polish, Haitian Creole, American Sign Language, and more.
- Nearly 270,000 Catholics of Hispanic descent (41% of the Catholics in archdiocese)
- Spanish-language Masses celebrated at 38 locations throughout the archdiocese
- Approximately 100,000 Catholics of African and Caribbean descent (15% of Catholics in archdiocese)

Social Service

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington serves more than 143,000 people annually regardless of religion
- Catholic Charities served 2.5 million meals last year to those in need in the Washington, D.C. and Maryland region
- 1,500 beds provided to homeless men, women and children each night
- More than 7,000 people received civil and immigration legal services last year
- Providence Hospital, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington and Holy Cross Hospitals in Silver Spring and Germantown, provide millions of dollars of charitable care each year.
- Victory Housing provides affordable housing and related social services to more than 2,700 low- and moderate-income senior citizens and families in Washington, DC and Maryland
- St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families has cared for at-risk young mothers and vulnerable children for nearly 160 years

For more information, please visit: www.adw.org