



April 4, 2006 - Bishop Lennon to Lead the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Cardinal Seán O'Malley's statement concerning Bishop Richard Lennon's appointment as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland:

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Lennon at the announcement that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has named him the 10th Bishop of Cleveland. I wish to express my deep gratitude to Bishop Lennon for his 33 years of faithful service as priest and Bishop to the people of the Archdiocese of Boston. Bishop Lennon's intellect, commitment and deep faith will be a grace and blessing for the Diocese of Cleveland. We assure the Bishop of our continued prayers and best wishes as he begins this new ministry on behalf of the Church."

(Vatican) ... Today, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI announced the appointment of The Most Reverend Richard Gerard Lennon as Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio on May 15, 2006. Bishop-Designate Lennon will become the 10th Bishop of the 159 year old Diocese, succeeding the Most Rev. Anthony M. Pilla whose retirement was also officially accepted by the Vatican.

Bishop-Designate Lennon currently serves in the Archdiocese of Boston as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, a key administrative post. Previously, he was appointed as the Apostolic Administrator in Boston where he served from December 2002 until the installation of Bishop (now Cardinal) Sean O' Malley as Archbishop in July 2003

Born 59 years ago in Arlington, Massachusetts, Bishop-Designate Lennon graduated from Catholic High School and then attended Boston College before entering St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts where he received an M.A. in Church History and M.Th. in Sacramental Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in May, 1973 and served in a variety of posts including parish priest, Fire Department Chaplain (sometimes participating as a firefighter), as Assistant for Canonical Affairs, and Rector of St. John's Seminary. He was ordained as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Boston on September 14, 2001.

Formal Installation of Bishop-Designate Lennon is scheduled for Monday, May 15th when he will assume his role as Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese. The Most Rev. Anthony M. Pilla will complete his tenure as the longest serving Bishop in diocesan history, having celebrated his 25th anniversary this past January. Upon his retirement, Bishop Pilla will take a sabbatical to reflect and discern, as he considers several opportunities to continue in ministry. Bishop Pilla plans to reside in greater Cleveland.

More information is available at the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland web site at: www.dioceseofcleveland.org. or contact: Robert Tayek, Director of Media and Public Relations, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland at 216-696-6525 ext. 4460.

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