

Archdiocese of Detroit

News Advisory

To: News Editors | Assignment Desks | Other Interested Persons

From: Rich Laskos 313-237-5802

**Re: Cardinal Maida to Celebrate Mass at Sweetest Heart of Mary
Liturgy in Recognition of the 150th Anniversary
of Polish Pastoral Ministry in the United States**

Time: 3 p.m.

Date: Sunday, October 10, 2004

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, will be the principal celebrant of a Mass in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Polish pastoral ministry in the United States. The Mass will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 10, at [Sweetest Heart of Mary Church](#), 4440 Russell, at E. Canfield, in Detroit. The public is invited to attend and a reception will follow.

“It was back on Christmas Eve in 1854 that Fr. Leopold Moczygema celebrated the first Mass for a group of Polish immigrants under a still-existing oak tree in Panna Maria, Texas,” said Msgr. Stanley Milewski, retired chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools and national coordinator of observances of the 150th anniversary for the Polish American Priests Association.

“That Mass marked the beginning of 150 years of Polish parochial ministry in the United States. Nationally, there are now 10 million Polish-American Catholics in the United States and over 2,500 Polish-American diocesan priests, as well as hundreds of Polish-American priests who belong to religious communities.

“Here, in the Archdiocese of Detroit, we have almost three-quarters of a million people of Polish descent,” Msgr. Milewski continued. “SS. Cyril and Methodius, the only Polish seminary in the U.S., is located in Orchard Lake, but was founded in Detroit in 1885.

“The motherhouse of the Felician Sisters, now located in Livonia, moved to Detroit in 1880. Many other religious communities also have a strong Polish heritage.

“The people of the Archdiocese of Detroit have much to be proud of as we celebrate 150 years of ministry to Polish Catholics in the United States.”

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***Note to Media Representatives: You are invited to cover this event. Sweetest Heart of Mary Church is located at 4440 Russell, at the corner of E. Canfield, just east of I-75, between Mack and Warren, in Detroit. For more information, call 313-237-5943.**

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