

April 24, 2005

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

As we gather around the Lord's altar this weekend, our hearts are joined with the Church Universal in giving thanks to God for the blessing of a new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. I write to you from Vatican City, where this very weekend, our Holy Father will be officially installed as the Bishop of Rome, successor of St. Peter and Vicar of Christ. Even as we Cardinals offer him our pledge of obedience and solidarity, I trust that each of you will also renew your bond of love and respect for the person and office of the Holy Father.

These past few weeks, the Detroit Archdiocese has certainly been engaged and involved in our own local events surrounding the papal transition. And, the celebration continues! I look forward to being with you for a Mass in honor of Pope Benedict XVI at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral next Sunday morning, May 1, at 10 o'clock. The permanent deacons of the Archdiocese and their spouses will be a special part of the liturgy, but certainly everyone from all around the Archdiocese is encouraged to participate. It will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on the gifts of our new Holy Father and how he builds on the tradition of his 264 predecessors, including our own recently departed and beloved Pope John Paul II.

As for our new pope, he brings to the papacy enormous gifts and a great breadth of experience. I know that you join me in thanking God, the Holy Spirit, for the way He continues to be present and active in our Church and our world in so many ways, especially in the gift of our new Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

With prayerful best wishes now and always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit