

BISHOP CORDILEONE APPOINTED TO OAKLAND

In Rome, at noon today, Monday, March 23, 2009, it was announced that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has appointed Bishop Salvatore Cordileone, Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego, to be the fourth Bishop of Oakland. He will be formally installed on Tuesday, May 5th, at 12:00 noon at the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

A native son of the Diocese of San Diego, Bishop Cordileone was born on June 5, 1956, and with his family was a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

He received his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of San Diego in 1978, after which he went on for theology studies in Rome where he was a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College, and received a Bachelors Degree in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1981.

Ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Diego by Bishop Leo T. Maher on July 9, 1982, Bishop Cordileone served for three years as associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish, after which he returned to the Gregorian University in Rome for Canon Law studies, completing a doctorate in Canon Law in 1989.

Returning to San Diego, Bishop Cordileone held diocesan positions for two years before serving as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico, from 1991-1995.

In the summer of 1995, Bishop Cordileone returned to Rome to work as an assistant at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

Bishop Cordileone was appointed by Pope John Paul II as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego on July 5, 2002, and was ordained a bishop on August 21, 2002 by Bishop Robert Brom.

Responding to the news of Bishop Cordileone's appointment, Bishop Brom has made the following statement in behalf of the priests and people of the Diocese of San Diego:

We are grateful to God for Bishop Cordileone's years of ministry as both priest and bishop in our diocese, and for the service he rendered to the Holy See. Above all, we want to assure him of our support and prayers as he assumes his responsibilities as Bishop of Oakland.

Bishop Cordileone expressed gratitude for the trust that the Holy Father has placed in him. "I am also grateful," Bishop Cordileone said, "to Bishop Brom, Bishop Chavez, my brother priests and all with whom I have ministered in the Diocese of San Diego, which will always have a special place in my heart." He added, "I now look forward to ministry with the priests and priestly people of the Diocese of Oakland where, after the manner of the Good Shepherd, I hope to lay down my life for those entrusted to my pastoral care."

Bishop Cordileone is in Oakland at this time for the announcement of his appointment. Two celebrations of Evening Prayer followed by receptions for Bishop Cordileone will take place upon his return: one for priests at the Diocesan Pastoral Center at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26th, and one for people in the diocese at Mission San Diego de Alcalá, St. Francis Center, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29th.