



Department of Communication

Archdiocese of San Antonio

July 12, 2005

Bishop Joseph Patrick Delaney of Fort Worth succumbs to cancer *Archbishop José H. Gomez will ordain and install new Bishop tomorrow night*

Bishop Joseph Patrick Delaney, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, passed away today following a lengthy struggle with pancreatic cancer. Archbishop José Gomez was traveling to Fort Worth to be the principal consecrator of the Most Reverend Kevin William Vann, J.C.D., D.D. as Coadjutor Bishop of Fort Worth, when he learned of Bishop Delaney's death. Bishop-elect Vann had recently been assigned by the Holy See to the Diocese of Fort Worth to assist Bishop Delaney. A Coadjutor has the right of succession upon the retirement or death of the sitting Bishop.

The installation and ordination of Bishop-elect Kevin William Vann will take place as scheduled with some adaptations at the Daniel-Meyer Coliseum on the campus of Texas Christian University in southwest Fort Worth, Wednesday, July 13th at 6:00 p.m. However, Bishop-elect Vann will be ordained Bishop instead of Coadjutor Bishop and installed as the Ordinary of the diocese. This will be Archbishop Gomez's first episcopal ordination and installation since becoming Archbishop of San Antonio in February of 2005.

"Bishop Delaney was a dedicated and faithful servant to the Diocese of Fort Worth and the Church of Texas for many years," said Archbishop Gomez upon learning of the death of Bishop Delaney. "I am saddened at his passing at this important moment in the life of Church of Texas. My sadness is tempered by the faith that we share as believers in the risen Christ, that God has awarded him the gift of perfect happiness with Him forever".

Bishop Delaney, 70, named the second bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth by Pope John Paul II, was ordained by Archbishop Patrick F. Flores to the episcopacy on September 13, 1981. He was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on August 29, 1934. He studied for the priesthood in seminaries in Boston, Washington, and Rome, and was ordained a priest on December 18, 1960 for the Diocese of Fall River. After serving six years as associate pastor, high school teacher, and assistant superintendent of schools in Taunton, Massachusetts, he received permission of his bishop to work in the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas. He served in that diocese as an associate pastor, the pastor of two parishes, superintendent of schools, editor of the diocesan newspaper, judicial vicar, and co-chancellor.

In Bishop Delaney's recent Easter Message to the people of the Diocese of Fort Worth, he said; "Ultimately, however, the future — for me, for our local Church, for all God's people — could not be more clear. In the healing light of the Resurrection, we see the unshakable promise of new life, life beyond tears and disappointment, beyond fear and confusion. We see in Easter's glow the firm promise of eternal life, united with all our sisters and brothers in God's love."

The Mass of Christian burial, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2005 at St. Patrick Cathedral, located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth. The burial will take place immediately following at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

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