

**Comments – Introduction of new Auxiliary Bishop for the  
Archdiocese of San Antonio-Bishop-elect Oscar Cantú, S.T.L.  
April 10, 2008  
Archbishop José H. Gomez**

Good morning and thank you all for being here today. This is a special moment of Grace for the Archdiocese of San Antonio and me personally. As Pope Benedict XVI prepares to visit Washington, D.C. and New York City next week, he has given a special gift to Catholics of the United States. The Holy Father has appointed several bishops to serve in dioceses around the country.

As many of you know, when Bishop Thomas Flanagan retired, I wrote to Pope Benedict XVI requesting a new Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese. Just a little more than a month ago, we said farewell to Bishop Patrick Zurek after ten years of service to here. We were happy for him, but knew that his absence would leave a void.

Since then I have been asked many times, “When we would get a new Auxiliary Bishop?” Knowing that it had been three years since I had left Denver, and that Archbishop Chaput still didn’t have an auxiliary bishop, I realized that it still could be a long time before I got an answer from Rome.

Happily, today, Pope Benedict XVI has announced that the Archdiocese of San Antonio is included in that group of appointments. This has truly been an answer to our prayers.

So this morning, I take great pleasure in introducing to you the “soon-to-be new” Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bishop-elect Oscar Cantu.

Bishop-elect Cantú was ordained a priest to the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1994. At age 41, I am told he is the youngest bishop in the United States.

He is a product of Houston’s Catholic Schools, attending Holy Name Elementary School and St. Thomas High School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Dallas, Dallas, TX.

He studied in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University where he earned his S.T.L. in Dogmatic Theology. Since 2003, he has taught at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He also has taught at St. Thomas at St. Mary’s Seminary. Father Cantú is fluent in Spanish and Italian, and even speaks some French.

Most of his experience since his ordination has been as a parish priest. Currently he serves as the Pastor of Holy Name Parish in Houston. He grew up in this parish where his faith and his vocation were nurtured.

Before he was born, his parents used to invite a young parish priest to their house for dinner and developed a close personal relationship with him. That priest would eventually leave Houston too and call San Antonio his home. His parent’s very dear friend became our beloved Archbishop Patrick Flores.

Bishop-elect Cantú's knowledge of the faith and well-rounded pastoral experience has prepared him well for the work that is ahead of him.

I first met Bishop-elect Cantú when he was a seminarian and followed his priestly ministry since. While we haven't worked together before, I am confident he will be a blessing to our archdiocese. His being bi-lingual and bi-cultural will make him a perfect fit. I look forward to involving in the administration, mission, and ministry of the archdiocese.

Bishop-elect Cantú's ordination will take place on June 2, 2008. Plans are just beginning and we will have more details as they are completed.

With sincere gratitude to the Holy Father, it is my unique pleasure to present to you our next Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bishop-elect Oscar Cantú.