

## **Statement by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, regarding appointment of Archbishop Wilton Gregory as cardinal by Pope Francis**

I congratulate Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C., on his appointment by Pope Francis today as a cardinal of the Catholic Church.

I have known Archbishop Gregory for almost 20 years. During my tenure as an auxiliary bishop in Chicago, Archbishop Gregory's mother lived in the vicariate in south Chicago in which I ministered. I got to know the family well during that time, and I consider Archbishop Gregory to be a good friend.

The Holy Father's appointment this Sunday is also a historic one, in that Archbishop Gregory is the first African-American cardinal named in the United States.

Archbishop Gregory is well-respected for the stellar work he accomplished as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and for his leadership in the Archdiocese of Atlanta prior to his appointment to the nation's capital.

I will keep Archbishop Gregory in my prayers as he assumes this important new role in service to the Church. Pope Francis is reading the signs of the times with his appointments to the College of Cardinals. The Word today is being spoken and Pope Francis has been listening to it. The Holy Father is giving voice to the words the world needs to hear.