

# OUR NEW AUXILIARY BISHOP



**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE**  
AUXILIARY OF INDIANAPOLIS

# Closeness and humor mark the family of Bishop Coyne

By John Shaughnessy

It's a humorous story that shows part of the essence of a family—a story from the lifelong competition between Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne and his sister, Patricia, to gain the attention and the praise of their parents.

The challenge was even harder for the brother and sister while growing up since they were part of a family of seven children, with Christopher being the fourth child and Patricia being the fifth.

"Like children do, we wanted praise and a moment or two at the center of our particular universe," recalls Patricia (Coyne) Silverman. "While I can't tell you the first time the word 'points' was used in a conversation between the two of us, I do know it was at a young age.

"Over the years, as one of us did a good deed or made a good grade, Chris and I would invariably end up in a discussion about the points this would gain us with Mom and/or Dad. If we were unlucky enough to have done something to get in the family doghouse, the other person would commiserate while gleefully tallying the points that would be coming off the current total."

It's a competition that has continued into adulthood with back-and-forth changes in momentum until a phone conversation in December altered the scoreboard forever.

"You can imagine my secret delight when Chris called to tell me he was moving to the Midwest," recalls Silverman, who initially believed that the move would be tough for their parents to embrace. "Unfortunately, he followed the moving to the Midwest part with the 'I am being ordained a bishop in Indianapolis' part. All I could think was, 'What am I supposed to do for points to top that?!'"

That story shows the closeness and humor that mark the family of Bishop-designate Coyne, the new auxiliary bishop for the archdiocese.

Then there is the telling story from the mother of the new bishop, a story of immense pride mixed with sadness.

## 'He's the spark of the family'

At 82, Rita Coyne is the parish secretary at St. Barbara Parish in Woburn, Mass., a job she has held for more than 30 years. She and her husband, William, have been married for 58 years. Their family and their faith mean everything to them. She has also always loved the blessing of having her entire extended family close by.

On the day after Christmas, the foundations of family

Submitted photo



In 2002, Rita and William Coyne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their six surviving children. From left to right, standing behind their parents, are Maureen, Daniel, Patricia, Christopher, Anne Marie and Brian.

and faith intertwined again as her fourth child drove her to her favorite getaway place for a few days—the family beach cottage in Maine.

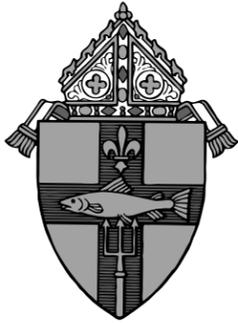
"Chris and I were in the car," she recalls. "He said, 'Oh, I have something to tell you, but you have to keep a secret.' After he told me [about being appointed a bishop], I didn't say anything. I filled up inside. I wanted to cry, but I couldn't. I was being very selfish. I didn't want him to go away. He's the spark of the family. Chris has always made

us a part of his life, no matter what parish he is in. Family means everything to us."

Yet, the pain was soon mixed with pride, especially when she listened to the reaction of her 88-year-old husband to the news.

"Bill's health isn't great, but the first thing he said was, 'Oh, Chris, that's so wonderful for you. You really deserve it,'" she recalls. "I think that's what we all should have

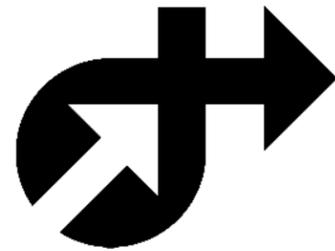
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Congratulations  
**Bishop Christopher Coyne**  
 Welcome to  
 the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The parishes and schools of the Batesville Deanery look forward to serving with you.

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- Immaculate Conception
- St. Anthony of Padua
- St. Maurice, Decatur County
- St. Paul
- St. Mary Magdalen
- SS. Philomena and Cecilia
- Holy Family
- St. John the Baptist, Osgood
- St. Denis
- St. Joseph, St. Leon
- St. Mary-of-the-Rock
- St. Maurice, Napoleon
- St. Nicholas
- St. Peter
- St. Pius
- St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Joseph, Shelbyville
- St. Martin
- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



**The Indiana Catholic Conference  
 Board of Directors and Staff**

**Welcome**

**Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Coyne  
 to the State of Indiana**

**and**

**the Archdiocese of Indianapolis**

# Bishop Coyne humbled to become successor to the Apostles

By John Shaughnessy

As he prepares for his ordination on March 2, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne has already embraced the advice that he has received from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and others.

“The advice they give me is, ‘Don’t change. What has made you successful as a priest and a pastor will make you successful as a bishop. First and foremost, be a pastor. Speak the words that will always encourage people and lift them up.’”

As he gets ready to become the first auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis since 1933, Bishop-designate Coyne finds himself “getting more and more excited.”

“It has very little to do with the day of my ordination,” he says. “It’s more about the work and the opportunity I’m being given to spread the Good News and work with Archbishop Buechlein. I’m encouraged and humbled by the people who are saying, ‘You’re going to be good at this.’ I don’t have all the answers. I need to learn how to be a good bishop, and continue to be a good priest.”

That sense of humility also pervades the one part of his ordination that he is most looking forward to experiencing.

“The laying on of the hands,” he says. “It goes back to the earliest times of the Church when the Apostles laid hands on people to bring them into the Church, to make new Apostles for the Church. It’s a profoundly historical moment, a mystical moment. From the time of Jesus to today, there’s been an unending apostolic succession to call forth the Holy Spirit in people’s lives. To become part of that pantheon of successors to the Apostles—it’s humbling.”

Bishop-designate Coyne shared those thoughts and feelings in an extensive

interview with *The Criterion*. The conversation ranged from his growing up in a Catholic family in Boston to working three jobs to pay for his college education, and from his life as a priest to the difference he hopes to make as the auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese.

Here is an edited version of that interview.

**Q. Describe your family.**

**A.** “We were a classic Boston Catholic family. The vast majority of people were Catholic. It was just part of the air that you breathed. Everybody had big families. I grew up as one of seven kids. The neighborhood was always filled with kids.”

“We grew up in a small house. All the boys were in one room with bunk beds, and the girls were in another room. We were a very close family. We still are. My brothers and I were all altar servers growing up. We always had priests around the house. They were good men. We just had a positive experience of the faith growing up.”

**Q. Who inspires you? Who were your heroes and role models, now and when you were growing up?**

**A.** “Growing up, my heroes were John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert. It was just the fact that he was the first Catholic to become president. He had a way with words that called you to social action. People really wanted to do something, to change society, to make the world better. The [Boston] Red Sox were always our heroes, too. We had their posters on the wall.”

“Today, I’m inspired by Pope Benedict [XVI]. When you look at his encyclicals and the speeches [that] he gives, he really has a pastor’s heart. It gives me hope in the way we are going as a Church. I’m also inspired by some of my fellow priests. And I’m inspired by the people I meet every day. There’s one woman who is a nurse and a mother of

## Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne

**Age**—52

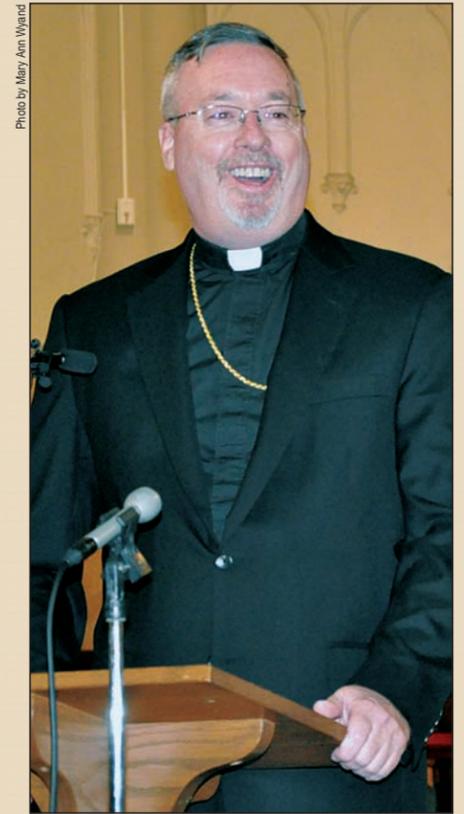
**Family**—One of seven children of William and Rita Coyne of Woburn, Mass. Uncle of 11 nieces and nephews.

**Favorite saint**—“I’ve always liked the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. I think her idea of love of God each and every day, in small moments, is the right way to go. I think that’s how most of us live our lives.”

**Favorite sports team**—New England Patriots. “My family has always been, from the beginning, Boston Patriots’ and New England Patriots’ fans. We can tell you all the stories in their history. My happiest sports memory is their first Super Bowl win. I’m looking forward to seeing the continuance of the rivalry between the Patriots and the [Indianapolis] Colts.”

**Favorite prayer**—“Being a liturgist, I like the official prayer of the Church—the Liturgy of the Hours. I’ve always felt that it’s a good start for the day.”

**Favorite books, authors**—“I’m a voracious reader. I love my Kindle. I read all types of books—thrillers, science fiction, biographies. Right now, I’m reading the Holy Father’s latest book [*Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times*]. I’m also reading *American Grace*, a fine book on religion and American culture.” †



Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne smiles during a Jan. 14 press conference at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. On that day, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop-designate Coyne as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

six. She fixes a dinner every Friday night at the parish, and then she gives the food to the homeless. She knows them by name, and they know her.”

**Q. What is the most important lesson you have learned from life?**

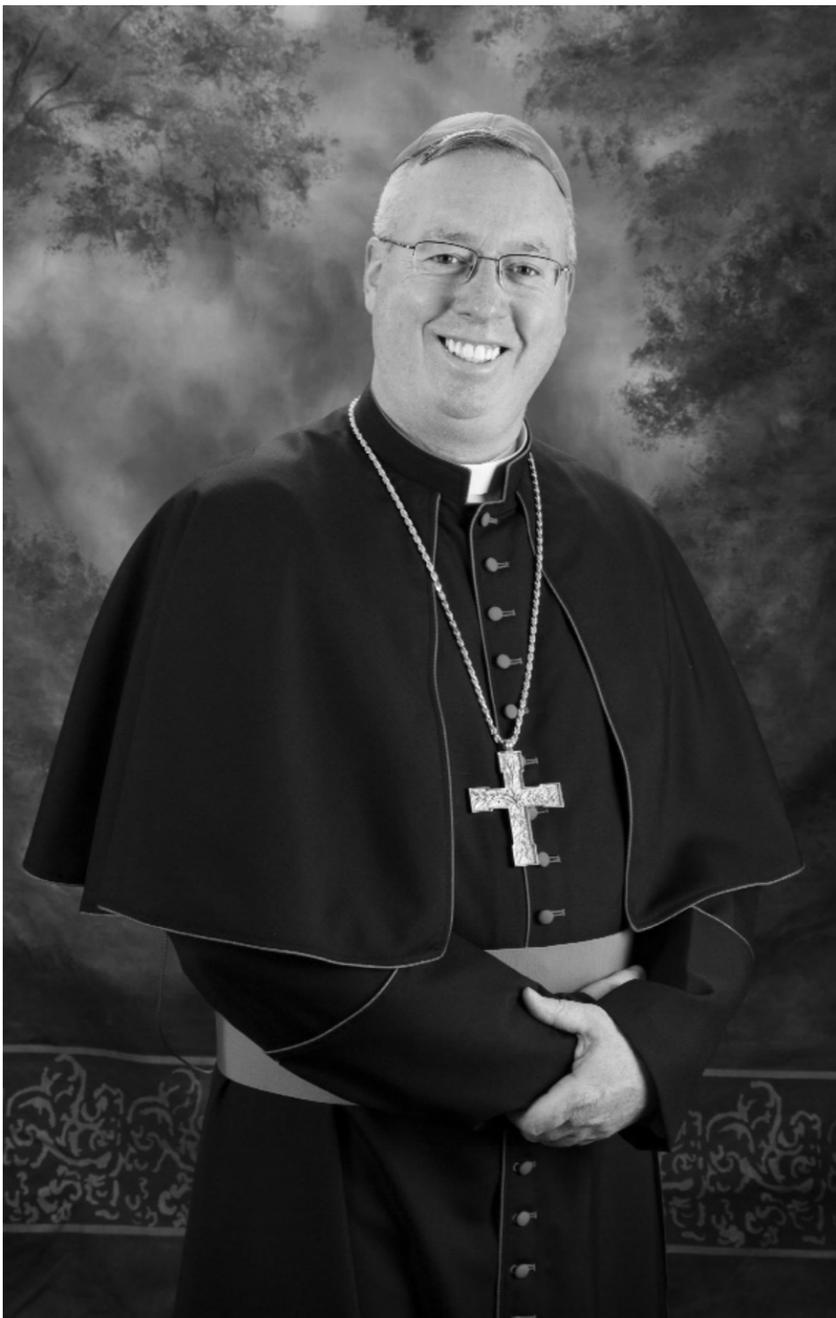
**A.** “How good God is, and how blessed we are to know him through his Son and

the Church.”

**Q. What are your interests, now and when you were growing up?**

**A.** “I’m a skier. I have a season pass. I like to work out. I like to get together with friends. And I like to cook. I have a group of priests over every Saturday night, and I

See APOSTLES, page 20B



The people of  
St. Margaret Mary Parish,  
Westwood, Ma

Congratulate  
Bishop Coyne

and wish him all the best.

We will miss you.

*Father Robert Reed, Jay Fadden  
and the staff at CatholicTV®  
offer prayerful congratulations to*

**Bishop Christopher Coyne**  
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF INDIANAPOLIS

*We are so grateful for your series  
Sacred Time and Sacred Space*



# St. Margaret Mary parishioners bid fond farewell to their pastor

By Sean Gallagher

Many members of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., will travel to Indianapolis for the March 2 episcopal ordination of their pastor, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne.

Few, however, will give him a more heartfelt farewell than 18-year-old Reggie Sethna.

And few will be as close to him during the liturgy as Reggie, who, along with his twin brother, Cyrus, has been asked to assist him during the ordination as an altar server.

Reggie, and Cyrus were born in India and adopted when they were 18 months old. They were born with restrictive cardiomyopathy, a heart condition that doctors have told them leaves them with only 12 to 14 years to live.

Bishop-designate Coyne has helped Reggie come to terms with this prognosis.

"We talked about what it meant for me and what it meant to my family, and how I felt about it," said Reggie in an interview with *The Criterion* in which he often spoke with emotion about his pastor. "He really encouraged me just to live every day the way I should live it, and to be strong and to have faith in God and believe that my life is in his hands."



*'He's really inspired my call and helped me discern it in a way that was real to me. [He helped me learn that] I needed to spend time in silence, and to learn how to pray and to discern that call as I was hearing it, and not to try to push it out of my mind or to deny that I might have a calling.'*

—18-year old Reggie Sethna, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., who is considering a vocation to the priesthood

Reggie has also come to hold his pastor in high regard because, through him, he has begun to believe that God may be calling him to the priesthood.

"He's really inspired my call and helped me discern it in a way that was real to me," Reggie said. "[He helped me learn that] I needed to spend time in silence and to learn how to pray, and to discern that call as I was hearing it, and not to try to push it out of my mind or to deny that I might have a calling."

Reggie was tempted to deny it because many of his fellow high school students made fun of him when he would talk about his interest in being a priest.

"Being kind of bullied around for it, I felt sometimes that I should just push it out of my mind and not mention it," he said. "But [Bishop-designate Coyne] was always there to say that I should listen in the silence of my heart, and that I'll be able to hear the call."

Reggie also said his discernment is connected to assisting his pastor as an altar server at Mass, something he continues to do. Through that, he has found a great love for the Eucharist.

"Every time I stand at the eucharistic table with him, I feel like I'm that much closer to the eternal banquet table," Reggie said. "He really has inspired in me a love



Paul and Beth Sullivan, members of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., say goodbye to their pastor, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, during a Feb. 13 reception at the Westwood Council on Aging in Westwood, Mass.

of the Eucharist, and a devotion to the Eucharist as a real part of my life."

Trish MacDonald approaches the eucharistic table frequently as a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish. And since Bishop-designate Coyne became pastor there some four years ago, she has begun to take Communion from the parish to residents of a nearby nursing home.

"That is probably the most rewarding thing," MacDonald said. "I'm fortunate enough to bring our Lord to people who are so hungry for him."

She was led to this ministry by Bishop-designate Coyne, who also served as her spiritual director and confessor since his arrival at the parish.

The beginning of his ministry in Westwood was a godsend to MacDonald.

"I can't tell you what an impact he's made on my life. I was in a very dark

period," she said while holding back tears. "He basically made me want to live again."

What Bishop-designate Coyne did for MacDonald, he also, in many respects, did for the entire parish.

According to MacDonald, other parishioners and members of its staff, St. Margaret Mary Parish had some challenging years before Bishop-designate Coyne was appointed its pastor.

Since then, new life has been breathed into the parish. The number of ministries has multiplied. Parishioners nurture each other's faith in small Christian communities. And its religious education program, which has more than 800 young people enrolled in it, has outgrown its classroom space.

"He's shown all of us how to be part of a community," said St. Margaret Mary

See PARISHIONERS, page 10B

## Congratulations Bishop Coyne!

The seminarians and staff of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary welcome you to Indiana.

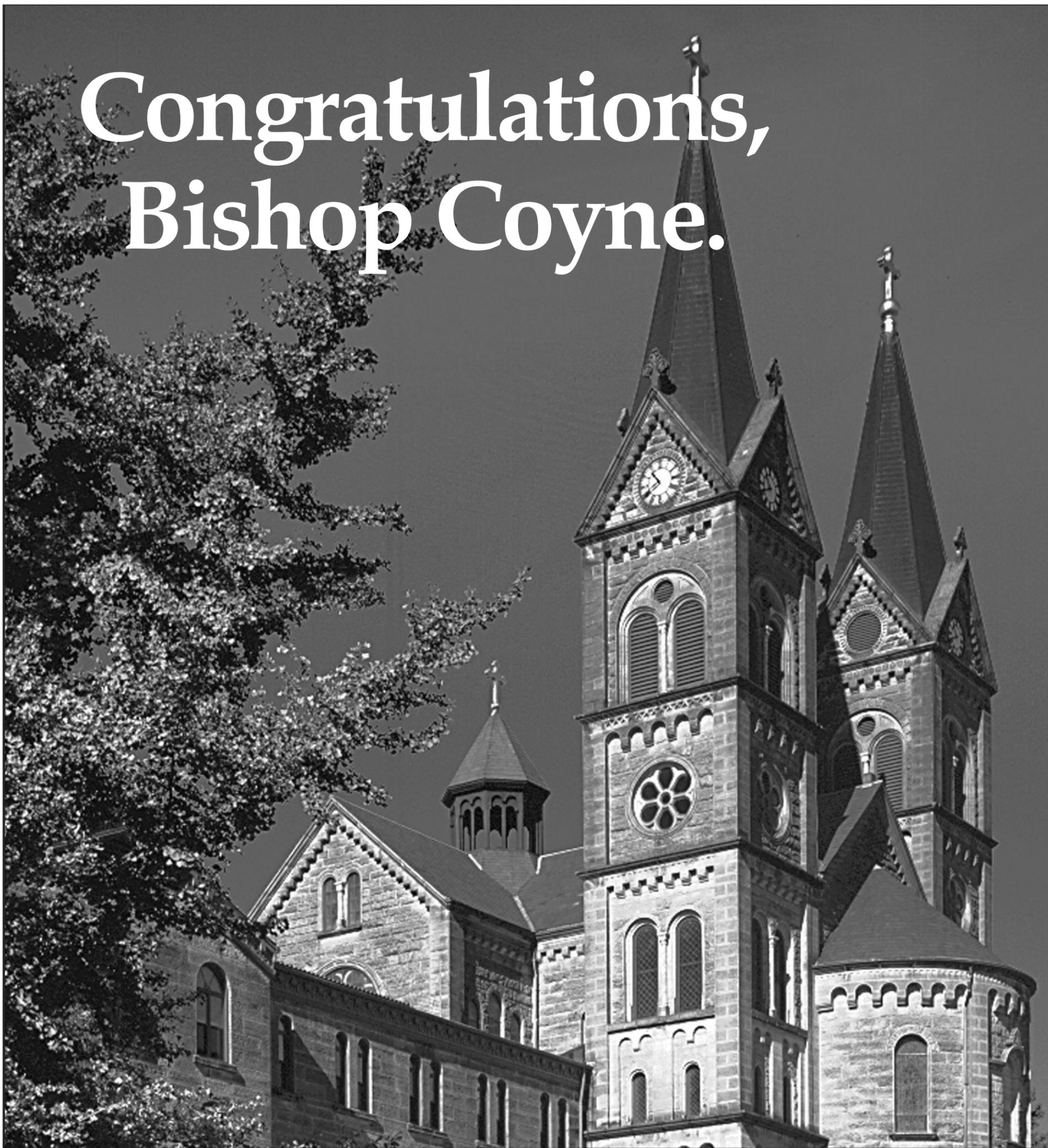
God Bless You and your Ministry.



BISHOP SIMON BRUTÉ  
COLLEGE SEMINARY

Rev. Robert J. Robeson, PhD; Rector  
Rev. Patrick J. Beidelman, STL; Vice Rector  
Rev. Thomas C. Widner, SJ; Director of Spiritual Formation  
Rev. Jonathan Fassero, OSB; Spiritual Director  
Rev. Daniel Donohoo, Spiritual Director  
Mrs. Susan Burris, Administrative Assistant

# Congratulations, Bishop Coyne.



*Congratulations to the Most Rev. Christopher Coyne  
on your Episcopal Ordination as  
Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.  
We extend a warm Hoosier welcome to you  
as you begin your ministry in Indiana.*

**Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB,  
and the monks, students and faculty of  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey & Seminary and School of Theology.**



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# New auxiliary bishop uses blog as a means of communication

By John Shaughnessy

Sometimes he uses a touch of humor to talk about life.

Other times, he shares a perspective on family and faith.

Then there are the times he offers his views on the Church.

In an effort to connect with Catholics in a different way, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne has been writing blog posts once a week for several years.

Since being appointed as the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, he has renamed his blog, calling it, "Let Us Walk Together: Thoughts of a Catholic Bishop." It can be found at [www.thoughtsofatholicbishop.blogspot.com](http://www.thoughtsofatholicbishop.blogspot.com).

Here are excerpts from some of his past blog entries.

## Rites of Family, Rites of Faith (Jan. 29, 2010)

In this post, Bishop-designate Coyne reflected upon the first funeral homily that he ever preached—for his grandmother, who died on Holy Thursday morning in 1986.

"You can well imagine how different the celebration of the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday was for my family and me that year. The images of death and resurrection, the empty tomb, the light of the Easter Candle, all had a particular immediacy for us.

"While we gathered for Easter Sunday, it wasn't the happy occasion that it had been in the past. One thing we did do, though, was we told stories of grandma and grandpa, and all the times we had been together as a family, and all the meals that we had shared, and all the holidays that we had celebrated, and all the stupid, funny things we had done—talking about all of the stuff that made us who we are as a family.

"We shared a meal and watched the

youngest [children] hunt for Easter eggs, and washed the dishes and cleaned up and headed home, knowing we would gather the next day at the funeral home to begin the task of laying our grandmother to rest. Even in the midst of death, life went on, sustained by ritual.

"We gathered, we remembered, and we shared a meal, something we had done so many times in the past and have done many times since, but each time a bit differently. Sounds an awful lot like Mass, doesn't it? Remembering, sharing, praying, feeding.

"Whether it's the Eucharist or a family meal, circumstances change, situations are different, people enter and depart our lives, new generations begin as older generations fade, but still the rituals of family and faith endure, shaping and giving meaning to our lives."

## Thou shall ... Thou shall not ... (March 4, 2010)

Bishop-designate Coyne will occasionally use humor in his blog and his homilies when it also serves the purpose of drawing people closer to God and deeper into their faith.

In this post, he started with the observation that the gym where he works out has a number of signs that politely and clearly remind people of what they should and shouldn't do as they exercise. Figuring there should be similar rules for people in church, he offered his own set of standards, including these samples:

- "Thou shall always make an effort to say 'hello' and to welcome everyone. Everyone includes Yankees, Jets, Canadiens or Lakers fans as well as your mean third-grade teacher from years ago now retired and sitting alongside you at Mass."

- "Thou shall not read the parish bulletin during any part of the Mass [including the homily!] nor use the bulletin to make paper airplanes, origami or confetti while inside the church."

- "Thou shall not leave Mass while still chewing the Host. [In other words, can you stay until the end? What is so important that you must leave early? Does the Lord run out on you?]"

- "Unless you're a doctor, nurse, EMT, police officer, firefighter, first-responder or someone on-call, thou shall turn off pagers, Blackberries, iPhones, cell phones, laptops, iPods, mp3 players, Game Boys, and any other electronic device before Mass. We have many elderly with pacemakers in our congregation. It is good to minimize electronic interference for the sake of their hearts."

## Catholic Identity and the New Evangelization (Jan. 25, 2011)

"Through the late 19th and then into the majority of the 20th century, the Catholic Church in the United States had seen a huge growth in its numbers and political power. As time went on, we came to believe that this would continue without doing anything other than [what] we had in the past. ... The Church would provide the sacraments and religious schools and education, and people would keep coming. Clearly, this did not happen.

"We failed to recognize and respond to major shifts in our culture: secularization, the sexual revolution, the liberalization of public education, the increased affluence and education of Catholics, the movement of Catholics from city parishes to the suburbs, and the major upheaval within the Church as a result of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Now we are left with a Church whose numbers are in decline ...

"But we are also left with a Church that is the Church of the Body of Christ, founded on the Apostles, endowed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Church in which we believe is a beacon of salvation and hope to a world that has become more and more secularized, divided, lonely and lost. I think we need to



Jay Fadden, left, the executive vice president and general manager of the Boston-based CatholicTV, speaks with then-Father Christopher J. Coyne during a telethon for the network. Father Coyne, who hosted shows on the network, has broadened his communication outlets in recent years by writing a blog.

pick up the challenge of the new evangelization, to evangelize ourselves so that we may grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ to spread the Good News to others ...

"I see many reasons for hope that we can turn this decline in the United States around: the good faith of the people and families that are still in our churches, the many young people who are actively working on our college campuses doing the work of the 'new evangelization' right now, the powerful witness of the social works of the Church in our hospitals, homeless shelters, food pantries and St. Vincent de Paul Societies ...

"I also take great solace in the words of Jesus Himself, 'and behold, I am with you always until the end of time' [Mt 28:20]. That promise itself gives us more than enough hope to keep spreading the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord to God's praise and glory forever and ever." †

## Welcome to Indianapolis

# BISHOP-ELECT CHRISTOPHER COYNE

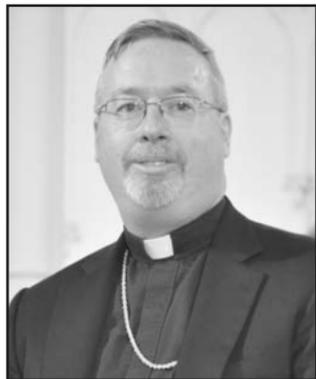
## THE ARCHDIOCESAN NORTH DEANERY SCHOOLS

**BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL**

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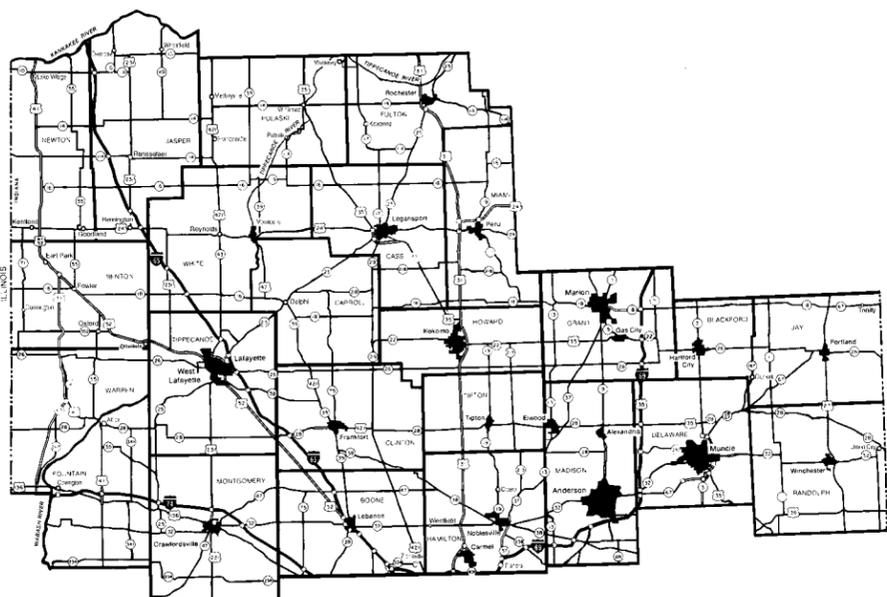
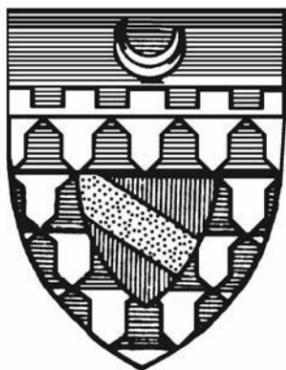
# Congratulations and Best Wishes

## Bishop Christopher Coyne



*As you begin your new ministry, May the Lord bless you and the Spirit guide you.*

From the Lay Faithful, Consecrated Persons, Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi and Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana



The Local Church of Northcentral Indiana



Father Aaron Jenkins holds a copy of the coat of arms that he designed for Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne. Father Jenkins is the associate director of vocations for the archdiocese, chaplain of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis, chaplain of the Indianapolis Fire Department, and sacramental minister of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, Immaculate Conception Parish in Milhousen and St. Denis Parish in Jennings County.

## Coat of arms features symbols of new bishop's faith and family

By Mary Ann Wyand

Green, blue and gold symbols—dominated by a large Celtic cross—form Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne's episcopal coat of arms.

The new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis blended images representing his love for God, family genealogy and ministry history in the Archdiocese of Boston on his shield.

Bishop-designate Coyne designed his coat of arms with Father Aaron Jenkins, a multimedia artist who serves as the associate director of vocations for the archdiocese as well as in several other pastoral ministries.

"He did a spectacular job," the new bishop said of Father Jenkins' artistry, which required knowledge of heraldry.

Their long-distance collaboration in recent weeks resulted in a beautiful coat of arms emblazoned with Irish and French symbols.

"Both of my grandmothers were French, while my grandfathers were Irish," Bishop-designate Coyne explained. "The left-hand side of the coat of arms reflects those two heritages with the Celtic cross and the fleur de lis. "The right-hand side of the crest is the insignia of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for which I am to be ordained as an auxiliary bishop," he said. "Above the shield is a processional cross taken from the insignia of the Archdiocese of Boston."

The shield reflects his request for "a simple coat of arms," he said, "that did not require too much explanation."

Father Jenkins offered to design the crest as a gift to the new bishop.

"Before I became a priest, I was an art teacher," Father Jenkins said. "Art is one of



These preliminary drawings demonstrate the evolution of Father Aaron Jenkins' design for Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne's new coat of arms.

the things that brought me into the Church—our long and beautiful tradition of art in the Catholic Church—and ecclesiastical heraldry is something that I have always found fascinating. ... Art is integral to who I am as a person in many ways. It's also a prayer form for me. ... Our God is a Creator God."

Bishop-designate Coyne already had symbols in mind for his coat of arms, Father Jenkins said, when they began working together.

The dexter side of the shield is the higher place of honor so it is the personal part of the coat of arms, he said. The other side represents who he serves, and features the archdiocesan crest.

A bishop's crest also must include a processional cross and six tassels on each side to show his ecclesiastical title or rank.

"They are simple symbols of his heritage," Father Jenkins said. "My job from there was to take the symbols that he chose and put them into a design that is visually pleasing. I think [the crest] shows his desire to really be rooted in this place that God has sent him to now." †

## Definitions explain the parts of a bishop's coat of arms

**Impalement**—The joining of two coats of arms side by side.

**Dexter**—The right-hand side of the shield, which is on the viewer's left.

**Sinister**—While sinister means "left-handed," on a coat of arms this is the right hand of the viewer. The right hand of the shield is the left hand of the viewer.

**Azure in chief**—Azure is a name for one shade of the color blue. The word comes from the Old French and Middle English languages.

**Chief**—The top of the shield.

**Base**—The bottom of the shield.

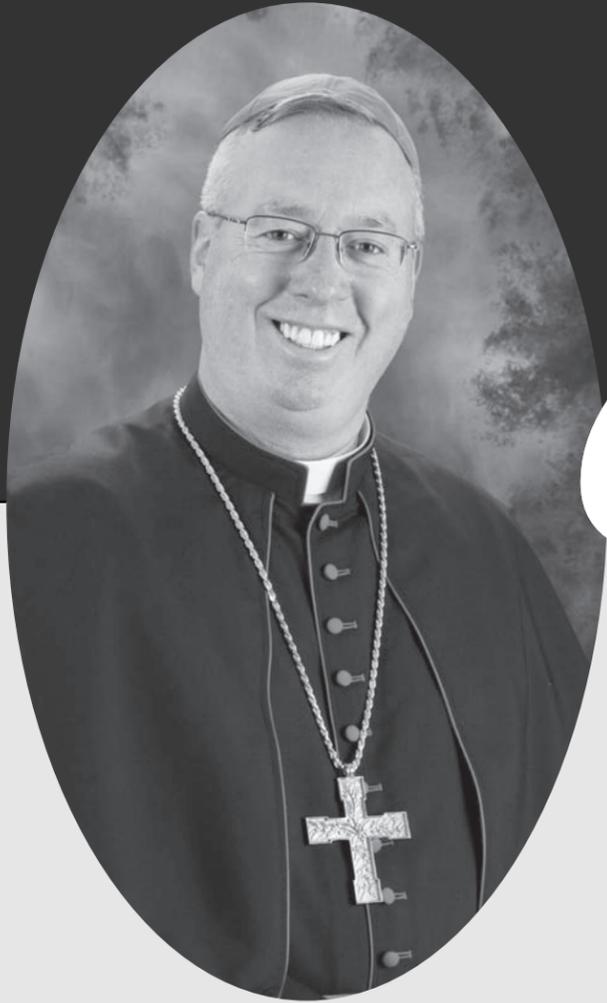
**Sinister base quarter**—The left-hand bottom quarter of the shield.

**Dexter base quarter**—The right-hand bottom quarter of the shield.

**Charges**—Figures on a colored field.



**External embellishments**—A type of ornamentation surrounding the shield, such as tassels. †



# *Congratulations*

**Most Reverend  
Christopher J. Coyne**

**On the Occasion of  
Your Episcopal Ordination  
and Installation as  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
❖ March 2, 2011 ❖**

*Ad Multos Annos!*

**Blessings and Prayerful Best Wishes from  
Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
and the  
Archdiocese of Boston**



# PARISHIONERS

continued from page 5B

parishioner David Zapcic. "He led by example. His great leadership helped do that."

That leadership led Zapcic to become involved in the parish after a long period where all he did was attend Sunday Mass.

"He really fosters an atmosphere of inclusiveness," Zapcic said. "It's clear through what he says [and his actions] that he wants folks to be involved. I think one of his great values is that he's a great community builder."

Zapcic and other parishioners said that Bishop-designate Coyne in part inspired this atmosphere by building up their faith through strong preaching, writing and the celebration of the Mass.

"He has helped foster in many of us a stronger sense of our faith—through his wonderful weekly sermons, his expert and practical, meaningful interpretation of the Scripture, and his devotion to help us all appreciate the time we have together to celebrate the Eucharist each week," Zapcic said. "His weekly letters and blogs make great reading at our house, and help keep the Mass alive during the week for us in a small way."

Ken Foscaldo, a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish for 42 years, watched the re-enlivening of his parish with great happiness.

But he thought that Bishop-designate Coyne, whom he described as "fantastic in every way possible," was destined for greater things and told him more than once that he should be a bishop.

"He'd [jokingly] say, 'Don't you think I'm doing a good job here?'" Foscaldo said. "And I'd say, 'You're doing a fabulous job. And I want you to stay here. But, for the

greater good of the Catholic Church, I'd like to see you have a position of more voice and more responsibility.'"

When his intuition proved to be true, Foscaldo had mixed emotions, much like many of his fellow parishioners.

"He's done so much for our parish," Foscaldo said. "I've developed a good relationship with him. My family is all lamenting the fact that we're going to be losing him."

Now that St. Margaret Mary Parish is losing its beloved pastor, members are saying that the Church in central and southern Indiana will be greatly blessed by Bishop-designate Coyne's life and ministry as an auxiliary bishop here.

"He's a renaissance man," Foscaldo said. "I

can't tell you how fortunate your archdiocese is to have Father Chris coming."

"I know he's going to do the best job possible," MacDonald said. "He has such a love of God and of people. I want the best for him because he's done the best for me." †

*'He has helped foster in many of us a stronger sense of our faith—through his wonderful weekly sermons, his expert and practical, meaningful interpretation of the Scripture, and his devotion to help us all appreciate the time we have together to celebrate the Eucharist each week. His weekly letters and blogs make great reading at our house, and help keep the Mass alive during the week for us in a small way.'*

—St. Margaret Mary parishioner David Zapcic



Youths from St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., made this sign and other posters for a Feb. 13 farewell reception for their pastor, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne.



Then-Father Christopher J. Coyne, right, blesses a statue of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque during an October 2007 liturgy at the Westwood, Mass., parish named after the 17th-century French saint. He served as pastor of the parish for four years.

# CONGRATULATIONS

to Bishop Christopher Coyne on the occasion of your ordination and installation



from Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger and the People of the



Dioocese of Evansville

# WELCOME TO INDIANA

# Staff members, rabbi have enjoyed working with Bishop Coyne

By Sean Gallagher

Members of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., said recently that their pastor for the past four years, Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, has inspired them to give of themselves to the faith community in a variety of ministries.

Parish staff members echoed those sentiments. Patrick Valentino and Dorothy Ruggiero are two staff members who watched up close as their pastor brought the parish to life again after several years when it faced many challenges.

"The amount of participation from the people willing to sign up for anything from feeding the homeless to teaching religious education to joining my music ensembles is huge, even compared to just a few years ago," said Valentino, St. Margaret Mary Parish's director of music and liturgy.

"He's an excellent pastor," said Ruggiero, a pastoral associate at the parish. "He has a lot of care and compassion for the parishioners. He's very available to them. Working with him as a colleague has really been a rewarding experience."

Valentino has appreciated Bishop-designate Coyne's knowledge of music. The priest studied music as a college student, yet he willingly allowed Valentino to be the principal leader of pastoral music efforts in the parish.

"There's no micromanaging or anything like that," Valentino said. "And yet, because of his background in music, when he wants to offer a suggestion or even a criticism from time to time, it's valid and useful."

With Bishop-designate Coyne's encouragement, Valentino has expanded the repertoire of the parish's main choir beyond what he could have imagined when he came to St. Margaret Mary Parish four years ago.

"If Father Chris wasn't on my side as music director, I would never have been able to grow them as far as we have," Valentino said. "I think that we've really kind of created a ... new standard for the choir of what they expect from themselves."

Although Bishop-designate Coyne is her supervisor, Ruggiero appreciates how he simply lives his life as a priest.

"He embodies what a priest should be," she said. "He's attentive to the spiritual needs of the parish. And that comes from his own deep faith. I think he's an excellent witness for the priesthood."

And that is a main reason why Ruggiero had thought that her pastor might one day become a bishop.

"We knew how capable he was here," Ruggiero said. "So we



In this 2007 photo, then-Father Christopher J. Coyne, the pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., left, poses with the faith community's pastoral staff. They include, from left, music director Patrick Valentino, secretary/parish coordinator Mary McSorely, pastoral associate Mary Peterson (no longer on the staff), director of religious education and youth ministry Karelene Duffy, and Deacon Joseph E. Holderried.

were't totally surprised that he was going to be a bishop. We didn't know where he was going to go. But we knew that he wouldn't stay here that much longer because of his skills."

Because of the way in which Bishop-designate Coyne has inspired so many parishioners to take part in many diverse ministries, Ruggiero is confident that St. Margaret Mary Parish will continue to flourish even after he begins his ministry as an auxiliary bishop for the Church in central and southern Indiana.

"He's empowered the laity ... so that all of the committees and the key ministries can go on even if he's not here," she said. "They know what they're doing. They have leaders among them."

Bishop-designate Coyne hasn't simply enlivened the faith of his parishioners and the ministry of his parish's staff members. He has also reached out to the ministers at other Christian congregations in Westwood as well as to Rabbi Jeffrey Wildstein of Temple Beth David there.

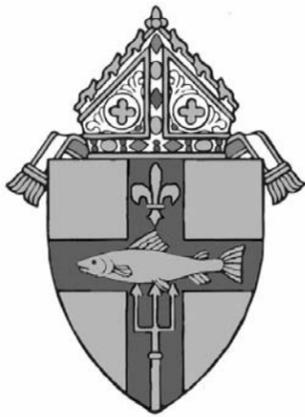
Rabbi Wildstein, who previously ministered at the

Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation on the north side of Indianapolis, said he appreciates Bishop-designate Coyne's deep respect for the Jewish roots of Catholic worship that he nurtured in his years of studying liturgy at the graduate level in Rome.

"Father Coyne is a remarkable person," Rabbi Wildstein said. "He is a scholar and a kind soul. And he's been a great friend to the Jewish community here."

That friendship was manifested through an interfaith Thanksgiving service in Westwood that the priest and rabbi participated in annually, and a series of educational programs that helped Catholics and Jews in Westwood learn about each other's faith.

"Father Coyne has been instrumental in the fellowship between the Churches and the synagogue here in town," Rabbi Wildstein said. "He's very open and secure and positive about his own beliefs, but open to [the] differences and cooperation with [people of other faiths]." †



Welcome  
Bishop Christopher Coyne

Congratulations and Blessings  
from the parishes and schools of the  
Tell City Deanery

- St. Michael
- St. Boniface
- St. Augustine
- Holy Cross
- St. Isidore the Farmer
- St. Joseph
- St. Mark
- St. Meinrad
- St. Martin of Tours
- St. Paul
- St. Pius V

*We pray that the peace of the Holy Spirit  
be with you and your ministry*

*St. Charles Borromeo  
Church and School  
wish a warm welcome to  
Bishop Coyne*



# Bishop Coyne's ordination liturgy will be historic for archdiocese

By Sean Gallagher

History will be made in many ways when Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne is ordained a bishop on March 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

It will be the first time since 1933 that an episcopal ordination has occurred in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

And it will be the first time that such a liturgy has taken place according to the ordination rite that was reformed following the Second Vatican Council.

So most Catholics in central and southern Indiana who will be present at St. John Church for the liturgy, watching it in a simulcast at the adjacent Indiana Convention Center or viewing it live on a webstream on the Internet will be witnessing rituals that they likely have never seen.

They are all laid out in the *Rites of Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons*.

The first ritual that will be new to many people will occur after the proclamation of the Gospel. It is the reading of a letter of appointment from Pope Benedict XVI since a licit ordination of a bishop can only take place with a mandate from the Holy See.

After it has been read aloud and the congregation gives its assent to the appointment by applause, the principal ordaining bishop—in this case, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein—will deliver his homily.

Following it, Bishop-designate Coyne will make a series of promises, much like candidates for the diaconate and priesthood do in their ordination liturgies.

However, in the case of the ordination of a bishop, there are more promises made. They relate to his fidelity to preaching the Gospel, to the beliefs of the Church, to the pope and to the episcopal ministry to which he has been called.

The praying of the litany of the saints follows, with Bishop-designate Coyne laying prostrate—much like what occurs in the priesthood and diaconate ordinations.

The most important ritual occurs next—the laying on of hands on the head of Bishop-designate Coyne.

However, unlike in the ordination of a priest or deacon where only one bishop is

required to carry out this ancient ritual, a minimum of three bishops do so individually in an episcopal ordination.

Bishop Paul D. Etienne of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Bishop Richard G. Lennon of Cleveland will join Archbishop Buechlein in the laying on of hands as co-ordinating bishops, and while praying that the Holy Spirit come upon him.

The *Rites* says that having three bishops carry out this ritual is done as a sign of “the collegial nature” of the order of bishops, who are successors to the Apostles.

Other bishops present for the ordination will also lay hands on Bishop-designate Coyne. However, priests and deacons will not take part in it.

The laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination which follows are the rituals that ultimately determine the validity of the ordination.

Bishop-designate Coyne will kneel while Archbishop Buechlein, assisted during part of it by the co-ordinating bishops, prays the prayer.

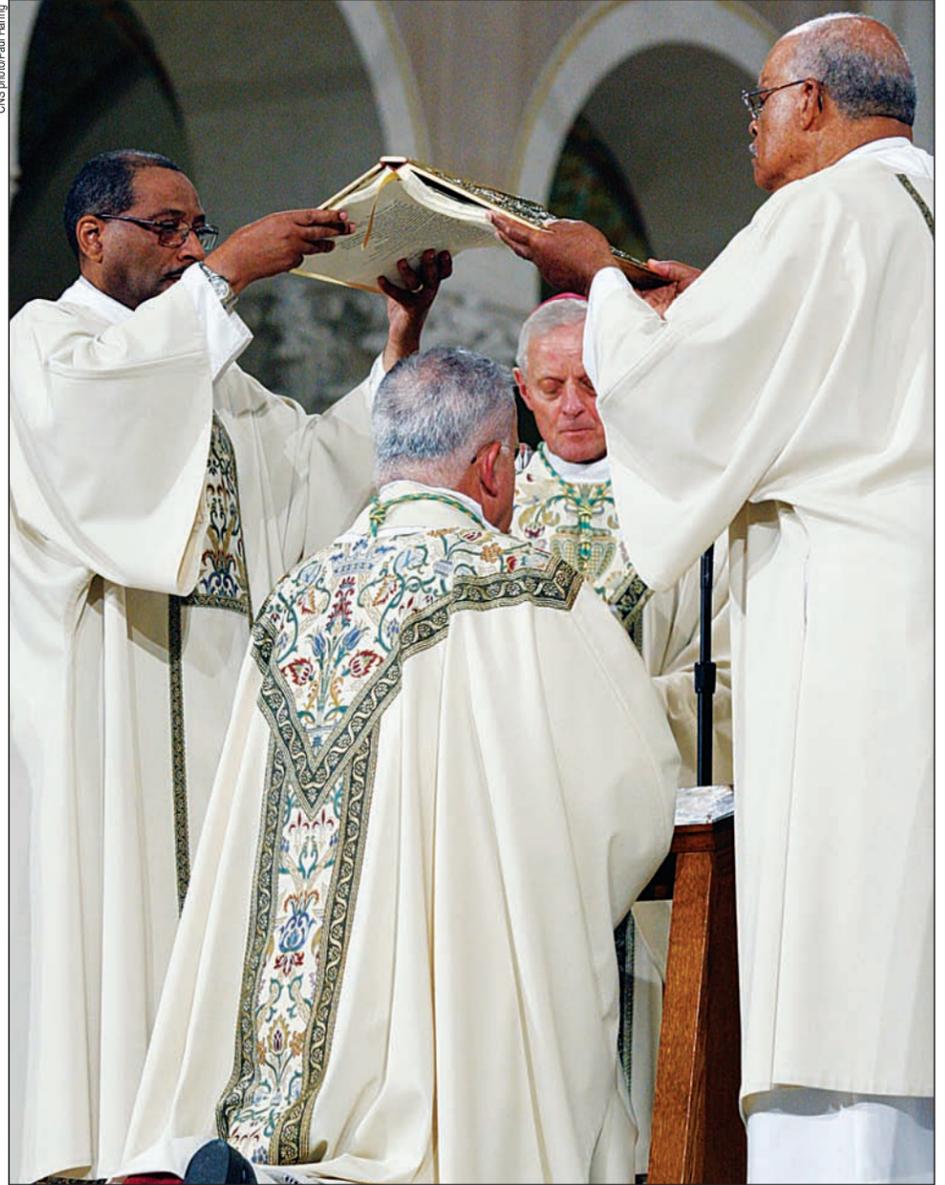
It is a long prayer that speaks of the roots of the ministry of bishops found in both the Old and New Testaments, and asks God to send the Holy Spirit upon the man being ordained so that he might share in the fullness of Christ's priesthood, and carry out faithfully its three duties of sanctifying the faithful, preaching the word of God and governing the Church.

During the prayer, two deacons will hold a *Book of the Gospels* over the head of Bishop-designate Coyne.

According to the *Rites*, this ritual, along with the presentation of a *Book of the Gospels* to him later, “illustrate that the faithful preaching of the word of God is the pre-eminent obligation of the office of the Bishop.”

Following this solemn prayer, Archbishop Buechlein will anoint Bishop-designate Coyne's head with sacred chrism, a ritual which differs from a priesthood ordination when the candidate's hands are anointed.

According to the *Rites*, the head of a man being ordained a bishop is anointed because of a bishop's “distinctive share in the priesthood of Christ,” which is also expressed in the prayer that Archbishop Buechlein will pray during the ritual:



A *Book of the Gospels* is held over the head of Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia during his episcopal ordination at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on July 11, 2009. Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne will participate in this ritual when he is ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on March 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

“May God, who made you a sharer of the High Priesthood of Christ, himself pour out upon you the oil of mystical anointing and make you fruitful with an abundance of spiritual blessings.”

The next set of rituals to occur are the

handing on a *Book of the Gospels* and insignia of bishops to the new bishop. These signs are a ring, miter and pastoral staff, also known as a crosier.

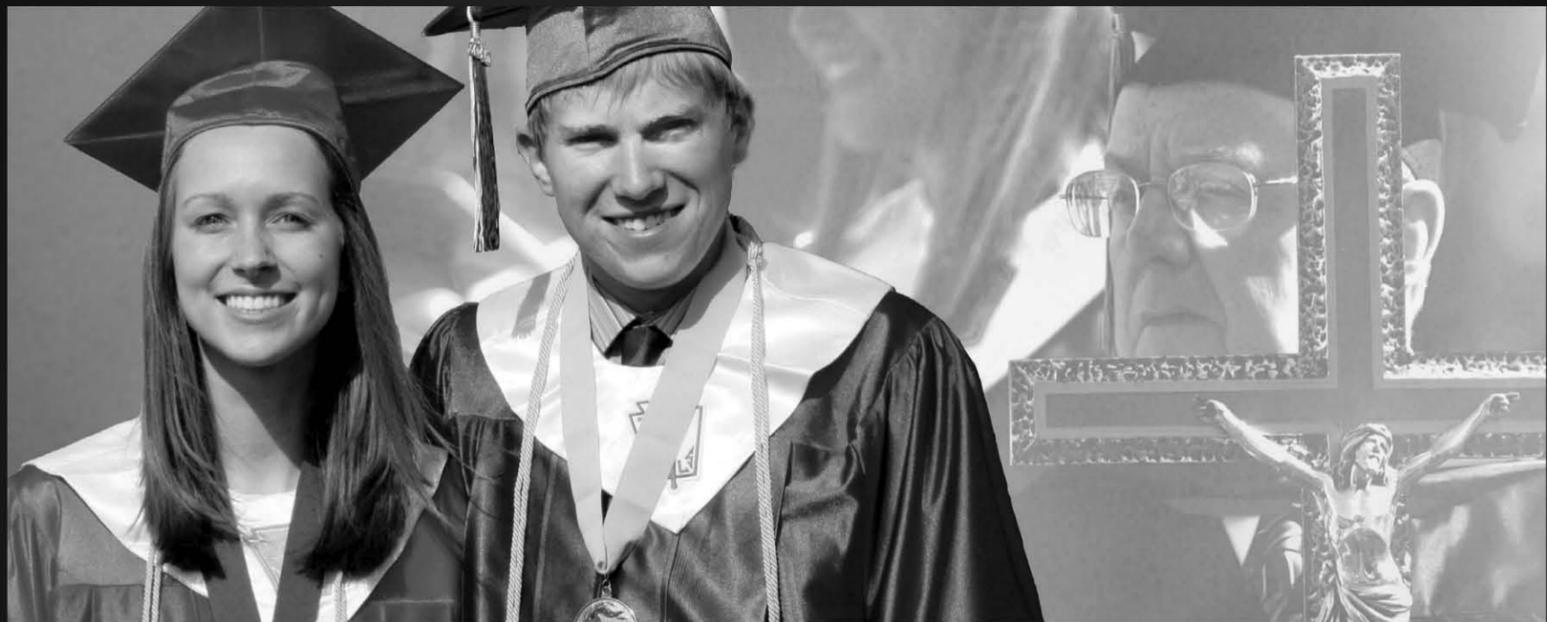
The words to be spoken next by

*Continued on next page*



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would like to welcome  
**Bishop-designate Coyne**  
to Indianapolis

Continued from previous page

Archbishop Buechlein in these rituals explain their symbolic meaning.

• Ring—"Receive this ring, the seal of fidelity: adorned with undefiled faith, preserve unblemished the bride of God, the holy Church."

• Miter—"Receive the miter, and may the splendor of holiness shine forth in you, so that when the chief shepherd appears you may deserve to receive from him an unfading crown of glory."

• Pastoral Staff—"Receive the crosier, the sign of your pastoral office: and keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as Bishop to govern the Church of God."

If the man being ordained a bishop is to

become the shepherd of a local Church, he is then ritually seated upon his cathedra, which is ordinarily found in the sanctuary of a cathedral. This will not take place during the March 2 ordination since Bishop-designate Coyne has been appointed only as an auxiliary bishop to assist Archbishop Buechlein.

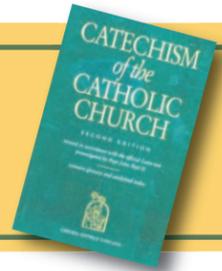
After the handing on of the insignia of bishops, all of the bishops present at the ordination, beginning with the ordaining bishops, share a sign of peace with the newly ordained bishop.

The rest of the Mass follows as usual until the final blessing when the newly ordained bishop, accompanied by the ordaining bishops, process through the church to bless the faithful—a fitting conclusion to a historic day in the life of the Church in central and southern Indiana. †



Cardinal William J. Levada, the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, right, clasps the hand of Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia during his episcopal ordination at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on July 11, 2009. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will be the principal ordaining bishop for the episcopal ordination of Auxiliary Bishop Christopher J. Coyne on March 2.

# CATECHISM CORNER



## What the Church teaches on bishops

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* presents the Church's teaching on the office of bishop in its section on the sacraments and, further, in its section on the sacrament of holy orders.

It appears under the heading "Episcopal ordination—fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders."

#1555—"Amongst those various offices which have been exercised in the Church from the earliest times the chief place, according to the witness of tradition, is held by the function of those who, through their appointment to the dignity and responsibility of bishop, and in virtue consequently of the unbroken succession going back to the beginning, are regarded as transmitters of the apostolic line" (*"Lumen Gentium,"* #20).

#1556—"To fulfill their exalted mission, "the Apostles were endowed by Christ with a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit coming upon them, and by the imposition of hands they passed on to their auxiliaries the gift of the Spirit, which is transmitted down to our day through episcopal consecration" (*"Lumen Gentium,"* #21; cf. Acts 1:8, 24; Jn 20:22-23; 1 Tm 4:14; 2 Tm 1:6-7).

#1557—"The Second Vatican Council "teaches ... that the fullness of the sacrament of holy orders is conferred by episcopal consecration, that fullness namely which, both in the liturgical tradition of the Church and the language of the Fathers of the Church, is called the high priesthood, the acme [summa] of the sacred ministry"

(*"Lumen Gentium,"* #21, § 2).

#1558—"Episcopal consecration confers, together with the office of sanctifying, also the offices of teaching and ruling. ... In fact, ... by the imposition of hands and through the words of the consecration, the grace of the Holy Spirit is given, and a sacred character is impressed in such wise that bishops, in an eminent and visible manner, take the place of Christ himself, teacher, shepherd, and priest, and act as his representative (*"in Eius persona agent")* (*"Lumen Gentium,"* #21).

"By virtue, therefore, of the Holy Spirit who has been given to them, bishops have been constituted true and authentic teachers of the faith and have been made pontiffs and pastors" (*"Christus Dominus,"* #2, § 2).

#1559—"One is constituted a member of the episcopal body in virtue of the sacramental consecration and by the hierarchical communion with the head and members of the college" (*"Lumen Gentium,"* #22).

The character and collegial nature of the episcopal order are evidenced among other ways by the Church's ancient practice which calls for several bishops to participate in the consecration of a new bishop (cf. *"Lumen Gentium,"* #22).

In our day, the lawful ordination of a bishop requires a special intervention of the Bishop of Rome because he is the supreme visible bond of the communion of the particular Churches in the one Church and the guarantor of their freedom. †



*The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran  
and the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the  
Diocese of Rockford  
offer prayers and best wishes to  
The Most Reverend Christopher Coyne  
Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis*



## SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY, BOSTON

*Its Rector, Faculty, Seminarians,  
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*Offer Fervent Prayers and Best Wishes on the  
Occasion of The Episcopal Ordination of*

*Most Reverend  
Christopher Coyne*

*Titular Bishop of Mopta  
and  
Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis*

**"MAY GOD WHO HAS BEGUN  
THE GOOD WORK IN YOU  
BRING IT TO FULFILLMENT."**

**-From the Rite of Ordination of Bishops**

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# 'Trust in the Lord' is auxiliary bishop's episcopal motto

By Mary Ann Wyand

"Trust in the Lord."

It's an important message for everyone, and it will be the episcopal motto for Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne when he is ordained as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on March 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

After learning that Pope Benedict XVI

had chosen him to assist Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and serve the Church in central and southern Indiana, Bishop-designate Coyne spent time prayerfully reflecting on Scripture passages for his episcopal motto.

A New Testament verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans later came to mind.

"One of my favorite Scripture texts is Romans 8:28," Bishop-designate Coyne explained. That verse reads, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

"Throughout my life, these words have sustained me when faced with struggles and adversity," he said. "It is what I try to instill in others. Since it is a bit long for a motto, the words of the prophet Isaiah and the Psalms will suffice. 'Trust in the Lord' is kind of an abbreviated version of Romans 8:28."

His decision about a motto would take some time, he explained to the media during a press conference to announce his appointment as an auxiliary bishop on Jan. 14 at St. John Church.

When asked if he had chosen a motto, Bishop-designate Coyne replied, "No, I haven't chosen an episcopal motto yet. I did look to see whether 'It is what it is' is in the Bible, but it isn't."

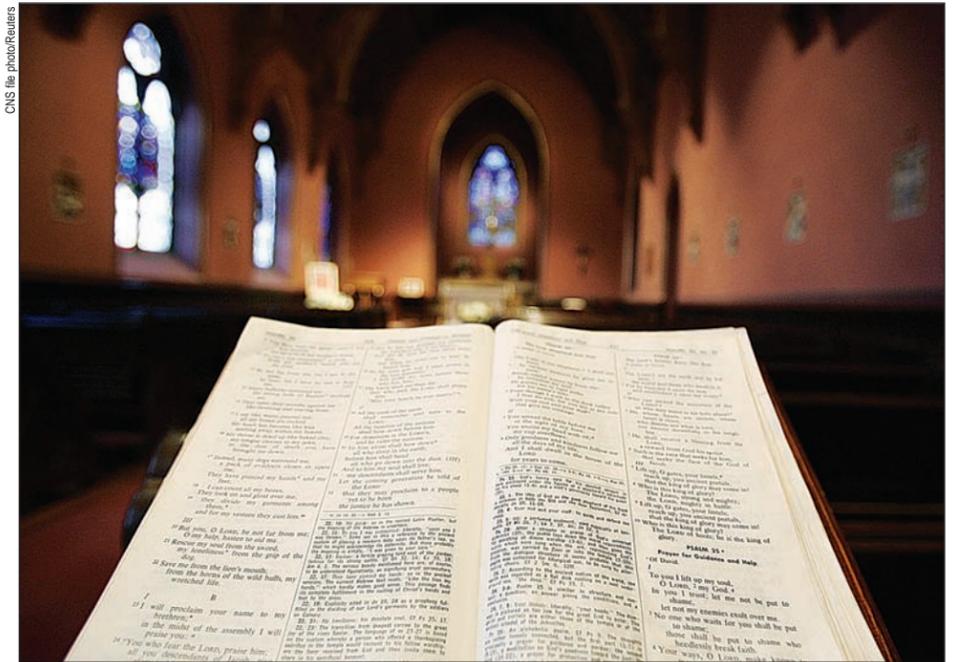
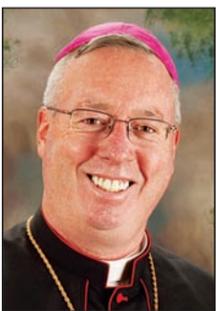
Following extended laughter from media representatives, the new auxiliary bishop said, "I will be thinking about it. I'm sure it will be short and sweet."

Popes, cardinals and bishops choose an episcopal motto to represent their personal spirituality, generally turning to Scripture or a passage from a prayer or litany for inspiration.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein selected his episcopal motto, "Seek the face of the Lord," while praying in a historic cemetery and noticing that old stone images depicting Jesus' face had become

*'One of my favorite Scripture texts is Romans 8:28. That verse reads, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Throughout my life, these words have sustained me when faced with struggles and adversity.'*

—Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne



An open Bible is displayed at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston in a file photo from 2005. Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne's episcopal motto, "Trust in the Lord," was inspired by a Scripture passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

weathered over the years.

The archbishop's motto also was inspired by Psalm 27, which reads in part, "'Come,' says my heart, 'seek God's face'; your face, Lord, do I seek!" (Ps 27:8).

A computer concordance search for Bishop-designate Coyne's episcopal motto, "Trust in the Lord," reveals dozens of Scripture passages with that phrase.

In the Old Testament, multiple references are found, most often in the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah and Jeremiah.

"Trust in the Lord and do good that you may dwell in the land and live secure" (Ps 37:3) and "Offer fitting sacrifice and trust in the Lord" (Ps 4:6) are among many similar admonitions in the Book of Psalms to put God first and rely on his care.

A well-known passage from Proverbs reminds believers to always "trust in the Lord with all your heart ..." (Prv 3:5).

The prophet Isaiah emphasizes, "Trust in the Lord forever! For the Lord is an eternal Rock" (Is 27:4).

And the prophet Jeremiah explains, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord" (Jer 17:7).

The Gospels and other New Testament books also frequently remind Christians to place their faith and trust in God, who is loving and merciful.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Christians are told, "Ask and it will be given to you ..." (Mt 7:7) and "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 12:28). †

## CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER MEMBER COUNCILS

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3433	St. Pius X	Indianapolis	10713	St. John Neumann	Greenfield
3660	Msgr. James M. Downey	Indianapolis	11044	Fr. M. Joseph McDonnell	Carmel
3682	Holy Family	Indianapolis	11896	Mary Queen of Peace	Danville
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To The Archdiocese of Indianapolis



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Congratulations  
**Bishop Christopher Coyne**  
from  
**Central Indiana  
Chapter Member Councils**

# Bishop selection process is thorough and strictly confidential

By Sean Gallagher

Most priests who are named bishops use words like “shocked” and “surprised” after learning of their appointment by the Holy Father.

Most have no idea that the appointment is coming because the process by which bishops are chosen is marked by strict confidentiality—and for several good reasons.

Canon 377 of the *Code of Canon Law* stipulates that, at least once every three years, the bishops of an ecclesiastical province must submit to the apostolic nuncio a list of priests who, in their opinion, are qualified to be bishops.

An apostolic nuncio, also known as a papal nuncio, serves as an ambassador of the Vatican to a particular country, and as a liaison between the Church in that country and the Holy See.

An ecclesiastical province is made up of the dioceses in a geographical area where an archdiocese also exists. All five dioceses in Indiana make up the Province of Indianapolis.

This same canon also states that individual bishops can recommend potential bishops to the nuncio at any time.

Canon 378 lists the requirements for potential bishops. They must be “outstanding in solid faith, good morals, piety, zeal for souls, wisdom, prudence and human virtues.”

They also must be at least 35 years of age, and ordained a priest for at least five years.

The canon recommends—but does not absolutely require—that potential bishops have a doctorate or licentiate in Sacred Scripture, theology or canon law from a university approved by the Holy See.

Since becoming a bishop in 1987, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein has participated in this process several times.

“I give the process a great deal of thought and prayer, and try as best I can to provide a full and accurate biography of the priest whom I recommend. I take this responsibility seriously to help the papal nuncio in drawing up lists of potential candidates for the office of bishop,” Archbishop Buechlein said during a 2009 interview.

According to Father James Bonke, the defender of the bond in the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal, when a diocese no longer has a bishop—either because the bishop has died, resigned or been transferred—the nuncio begins a process of assembling a list of three recommendations, known as a “terna,” to succeed that bishop.

“Those three names have to be ranked in order according

to his preference,” Father Bonke said during a 2009 interview.

A 2009 Catholic News Service article explained that nuncios ordinarily gather 30 to 40 written evaluations of each of the recommended potential bishops. The *terna*, along with the evaluations, is forwarded to the Holy See’s Congregation for Bishops in Rome.

Archbishop Buechlein discussed being asked to assess potential bishops.

“When the papal nuncio seeks information and judgment concerning a particular candidate, the process becomes more focused. So does one’s prayer and responsibility,” he said. “Candidates proposed for nomination to the office of bishop may or may not be from the Metropolitan Province of Indianapolis. For thorough investigation, the nuncio ‘throws the net wide’ at times.

“Those who are consulted are presumed to respond as completely and honestly as possible. Usually, a good number of people—clerical, religious and lay—are consulted.”

The bishops and cardinals who are members of the various congregations at the Vatican—such as the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints or the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith—meet only a few times a year at most.

The CNS article explained that the Congregation for Bishops ordinarily meets every two weeks for an entire morning at a time. Members of the congregation receive “extensive documentation” on each episcopal candidate to review in advance of the meeting.

American members of the Congregation for Bishops are cardinals Raymond L. Burke, Bernard F. Law, William J. Levada, Justin F. Rigali and J. Francis Stafford.

Much of the paperwork on episcopal candidates that the congregation’s members receive is made up of the evaluations gathered by nuncios.

When asked to evaluate potential bishops, they are told that their answers and the name of the person they have been asked to assess are to remain strictly confidential.

“Their responses are supposed to be top secret, equal to the seal of confession,” Father Bonke said.

“It is done so in order to ensure the protection of the objectivity and integrity of the process,” said Archbishop Buechlein. “It is also kept confidential out of sensitivity for the potential candidate being considered.

“Obviously, it also obviates the possibility of



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne shake hands during a Jan. 14 press conference at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The archbishop announced that day that Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Bishop-designate Coyne as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

politicizing the process. The Church has a long and vast experience of ensuring that competent and faithful candidates are selected to serve as bishop for the common good.”

The process of gathering evaluations of potential bishops and assembling a list of three recommendations is not specifically laid out in the *Code of Canon Law*, but is a procedure established by the Congregation for Bishops.

Although a nuncio and his staff will have done much work to assemble the *terna*, the Congregation for Bishops or the pope may reject all three recommendations. Then the nuncio may have to start work on a new *terna*.

But if one of the recommendations is accepted first by the members of the Congregation for Bishops then by the pope, the nuncio must pick up his phone and make that fateful call to the man chosen to become a bishop.

“The phone call to become a bishop changes one’s life immediately,” Archbishop Buechlein said. “It usually comes as a shock. One time, when I visited the papal nuncio’s residence, I asked him if I could see the phone that changed my life. He laughed, but he showed it to me.” †



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Welcomes

**Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Coyne**

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*St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church*  
*126 West Georgia St., Indianapolis, IN 46225*

◆  
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**Bishop Christopher J. Coyne**

from

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the priests, deacons, religious and  
faithful of the Diocese of Cheyenne



# Let us walk together.

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Visit Bishop Coyne's blog, "Let Us Walk Together," at [thoughtsofacatholicbishop.blogspot.com](http://thoughtsofacatholicbishop.blogspot.com).

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# St. John the Evangelist Parish is new home for auxiliary bishop

By Mary Ann Wyand

Historic St. John the Evangelist Church in the heart of downtown Indianapolis will be the spiritual “home” for Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, the new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Bishop-designate Coyne will be ordained there on March 2 during a 2 p.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, the principal ordaining bishop.

Bishop Paul D. Etienne of Cheyenne, Wyo., a Tell City native and former priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and Bishop Richard G. Lennon of Cleveland are the co-ordaining bishops.

The new auxiliary bishop will preside at some of the Masses in the majestic brick church at 126 W. Georgia St.

He will reside at St. John’s rectory adjacent to the church, which is just two blocks south of the

Indiana Statehouse on Capitol Avenue.

His residence at St. John’s rectory will renew a tradition dating back to the early years of the first parish established in Indianapolis and Marion County in 1837.

Archdiocesan records indicate that Bishop Maurice de St. Palais of the Diocese of Vincennes was the first bishop to reside at St. John’s new rectory on a temporary basis around 1863.

Bishop Francis Silas Marean Chatard also served the Church in central and

southern Indiana while in residence at St. John the Evangelist Parish. He moved from Vincennes, Ind., to Indianapolis on Aug. 17, 1878.

The 2011 *Archdiocesan Directory and Yearbook* explains that, “upon his appointment in 1878, Bishop Francis Chatard, the fifth bishop of [the Diocese of] Vincennes, was directed to fix his residence at Indianapolis.

“Although the site of the cathedral and the title of the see were continued at Vincennes,” the directory notes, “Bishop Chatard used St. John the Evangelist [Church and] Parish in Indianapolis as an unofficial cathedral [and residence] until the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul was completed in 1907” at 1347 N. Meridian St.

“By apostolic brief dated March 28, 1898, the title of the diocese was changed to that of ‘Diocese of Indianapolis,’” the directory explains, “with the episcopal see in the city of Indianapolis.”

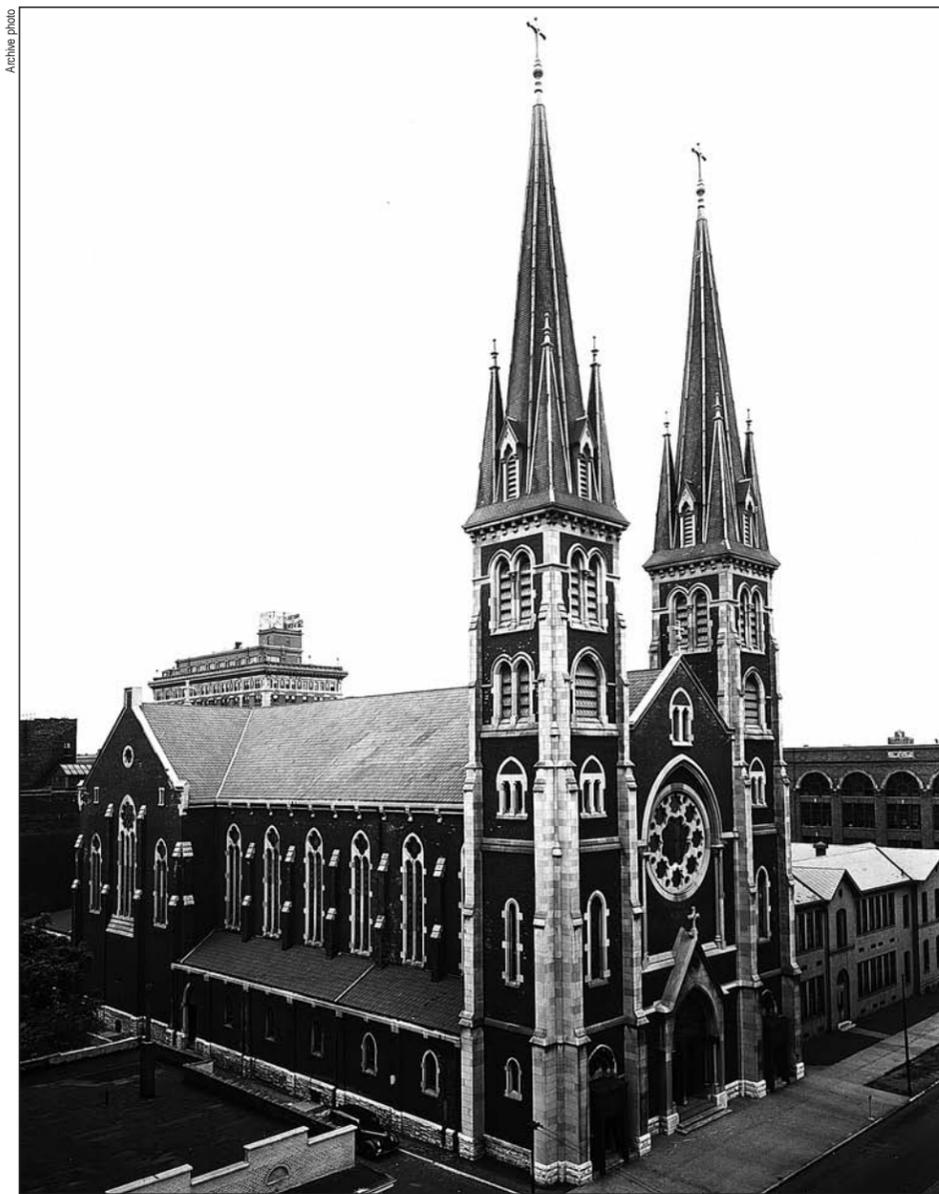
In 1900, Bishop Denis O’Donaghue was ordained as an auxiliary bishop at St. John the Evangelist Church.

According to archdiocesan records, Father O’Donaghue served Bishop Joseph Chartrand as the chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Indianapolis. He was named an auxiliary bishop on Feb. 13, 1900, and consecrated at St. John the Evangelist Church on April 25, 1900.

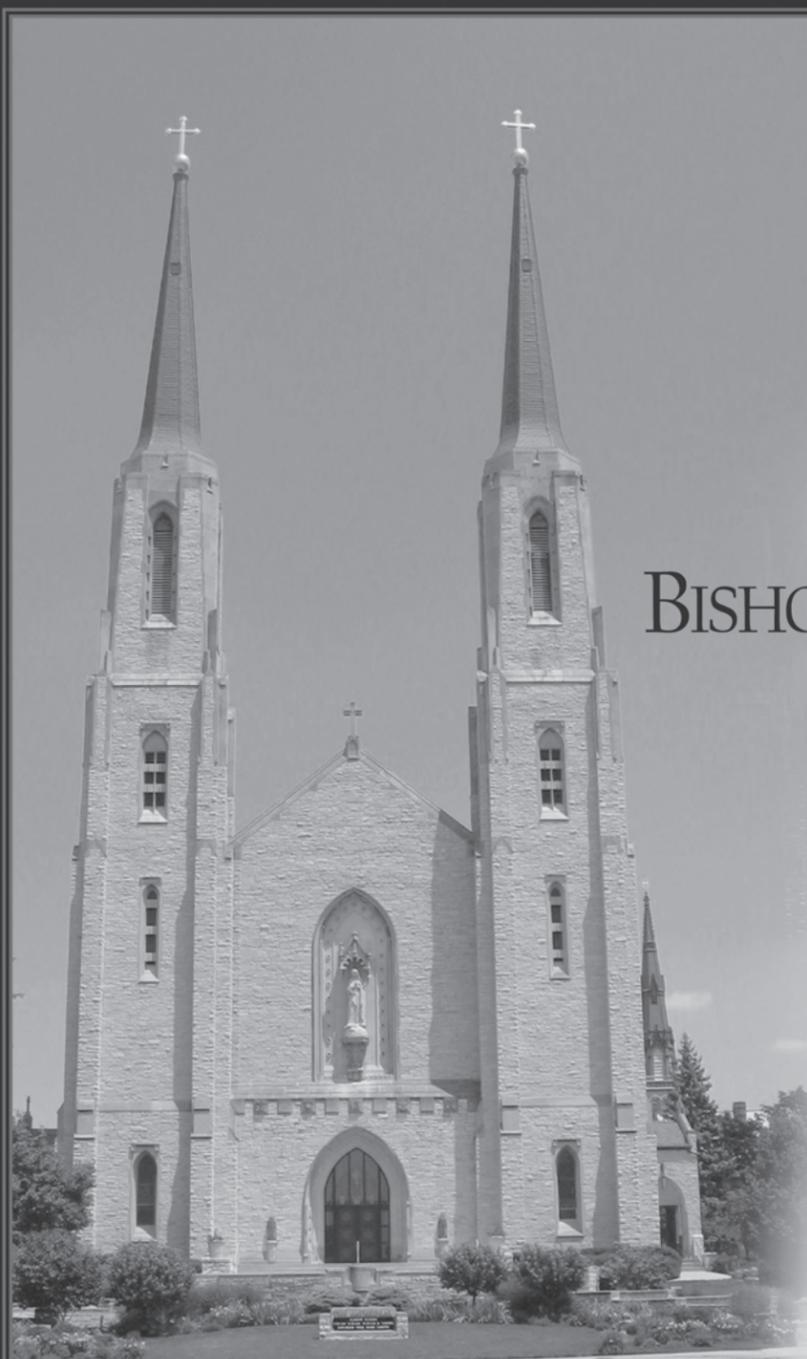
See ST. JOHN, page 22B

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**Bishop Francis Silas Marean Chatard also served the Church in central and southern Indiana while in residence at St. John the Evangelist Parish.**



This Archive photo of St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis shows its ornate French Gothic and American Romanesque design elements. Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne will be ordained during a Mass on March 2 at the historic downtown church.



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# Archdiocese of Indianapolis has had two previous auxiliaries

By Sean Gallagher

History was made on Jan. 14 when Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Christopher J. Coyne, a priest of the Boston Archdiocese, to be an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Bishop-designate Coyne will be only the third auxiliary bishop in the 177-year history of the archdiocese, and the first since Pope Pius XI appointed Father Joseph E. Ritter as an auxiliary in 1933.



Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter

Bishop Ritter served as an auxiliary, however, for less than a year. Bishop Joseph Chartrand, the bishop of Indianapolis at the time, died later that same year and Bishop Ritter was chosen to succeed him on March 24, 1934.

Bishop Ritter was born in 1892 in New Albany, and grew up as a member of St. Mary Parish. He was

ordained a priest of the Diocese of Indianapolis in 1917. Retired Father Hilary Meny, 96, was a student in the minor seminary at Saint Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad when Bishop Ritter was appointed an auxiliary bishop.

However, he has no memory of the appointment because, at the time, he was not yet affiliated with the Diocese of Indianapolis as a seminarian.

"They didn't want any more people on the roster than they could support," said Father Meny of the financially challenging times during the Great Depression.

He recalled seeing Bishop Ritter "at a distance" when he would come to the seminary for ordinations.

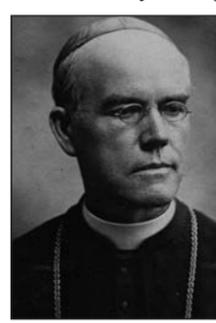
After studying at Saint Meinrad for eight years, Father Meny finally became a seminarian for the Diocese of Indianapolis. Bishop Ritter ordained him to the priesthood in 1940.

Bishop Ritter would later become an archbishop in 1944 when the Diocese of Indianapolis became an archdiocese. Two years later, Pope Pius XII appointed him as archbishop of St. Louis. He was made a cardinal in

1961 and died in 1967.

History, in a sense, repeated itself with the appointment of Bishop-designate Coyne. At the Jan. 14 press conference, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein acknowledged that the health challenges he has experienced in recent years precipitated the appointment.

In 1900, Father Denis O'Donoghue was appointed the first auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis.



Bishop Denis O'Donoghue

According to a February 1910 issue of *The Indiana Catholic* newspaper, Bishop Francis Chatard had requested an auxiliary bishop at the time because of his failing health.

Bishop O'Donoghue, who was born in 1848 in Daviess County, Ind., was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Indianapolis in 1874.

Pope St. Pius X appointed him as bishop of Louisville on Feb. 9, 1910. He died in 1925. †

## Auxiliary bishops are like associate pastors, says canon lawyer

By Sean Gallagher

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis hasn't had an auxiliary bishop for 77 years. So virtually no Catholic alive today who grew up in central and southern Indiana has any memory of the ministry of an auxiliary bishop.

As Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein said at the Jan. 14 press conference at which Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne was introduced, Catholics across the archdiocese, including himself, will have some learning to do.

The Church's *Code of Canon Law* might be helpful in that regard, said Father James Bonke, the defender of the bond in the archdiocese's canon law court, known as the Metropolitan Tribunal.

In an interview with *The Criterion*, Father Bonke said that an auxiliary bishop in a diocese is much like an associate pastor in a parish.

An associate pastor has no duties except those that are given to him by the parish's pastor. In the same way, the only authority that an auxiliary bishop has in a diocese is that which is given to him by the diocese's bishop.

"The auxiliary is strictly a helper," said Father Bonke. "He's an assistant bishop, but without any ordinary jurisdiction of any kind. The [diocesan bishop] maintains full and total jurisdiction, and authority and administrative competence."

The canons that deal primarily with auxiliary bishops are #403 to #411.

Canon 403 states that an auxiliary bishop can be appointed if "the pastoral needs of a diocese suggest it."

Father Bonke said that Archbishop Buechlein's loss of energy due to his health difficulties over the past few years would be such a pastoral need.

In other dioceses, the high number of Catholics to be ministered to necessitates the appointing of one or more auxiliary bishop—much like the fact that it is usually only parishes with a large number of households that have an associate pastor.

Canon 406 states that a diocesan bishop should appoint an auxiliary bishop as the vicar general of the diocese, although this is ultimately "dependent only upon his authority."

Father Bonke said this condition reflects the fact that an auxiliary bishop has no authority except what is granted to him

by the diocesan bishop.

Archbishop Buechlein chose to follow Canon 406's recommendation, and has appointed Bishop-designate Coyne as the vicar general.

Canon 407 notes that a diocesan bishop is to consult his auxiliary bishop before others about "cases of major importance, especially of a pastoral character."

"The auxiliary bishop, in effect, becomes a member of the presbyterate of the diocese," said Father Bonke, regarding Canon 407. "But, because of his episcopal rank, he is considered at a higher level than anybody else. It's a recognition of his episcopal status."

Canon 408 states that an auxiliary bishop ordinarily is to carry out episcopal duties "whenever the diocesan bishop requires it," and that the diocesan bishop is not to assign such duties "habitually" to anyone else.

Such tasks include those which only a bishop can perform, such as ordinations or the dedication of a church. But they can also involve presiding at other diocesan and important parish events that the diocesan bishop would ordinarily attend, including confirmations. †



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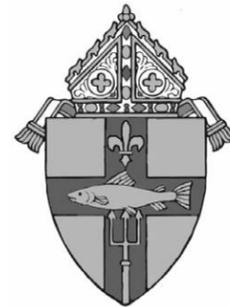
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- St. Anthony Parish
- St. Christopher Parish and St. Christopher Catholic School
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- St. Joseph Parish
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- St. Monica Parish, and St. Monica Catholic School
- St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg and St. Malachy Catholic School
- Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Danville
- St. Thomas More Parish, Mooresville and St. Thomas More Pre-School
- St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield and St. Susanna Catholic School
- West Deanery Catholic Schools Inc.
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Father Christopher Coyne gives Communion to his mother, Rita, during his first Mass at St. Barbara Church in Woburn, Mass., after being ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston in June 1986.

## APOSTLES

continued from page 3B

cook for them. Growing up, I was very much into sports with my brothers. We used to play hockey, and pick-up basketball in the driveway.

"From the time I was 14, I worked. I worked three jobs to pay my way through college. In the morning, I was a lifeguard at the YMCA. In the afternoon, I worked at the local Sears in the sporting goods department. Then at night, I'd work at Sears or tend bar."

**Q. What was it like being a bartender, and what did you learn from that experience?**

A. "I did it for four years in college and two years after college. I also did it for three years when I was in the seminary, for weddings and other events. They let

me do it for a little pocket change. People who work in the restaurant business—it's a hard life. They also were very generous people, good people. They'd come together when someone was in need. There was one waitress in particular. Her husband was in a car accident, and he was paralyzed. She worked and she took care of him at home. Those kinds of people are the hidden saints."

**Q. Talk about your vocational journey.**

A. "I was always active in the parish. I was an altar server and a lector. And there were always priests in our house. There was one priest I was close to in particular. "Father Fred had known me for a while. I wanted to go into the seminary, but he said I wasn't ready. He knew some of the trouble I was getting into at the time. He encouraged me to go to college. I was disappointed, but I took his advice. It was good advice. I would have been thrown out of seminary if I went in when I first thought about it."

"Through college, I was still connected to the parish. I was involved in religious education and helping in other ways.

"After college, I was tending bar for two years. [All along,] my parents had encouraged me to be a priest. At first, I was doing it to please my parents, to please my family.

The defining moment [in deciding to become a priest] came when I thought, 'I want to do this because I believe in this. I believe in the Church.' "

**Q. How have your nearly 25 years as a priest changed you and drawn you closer to Christ?**

A. "When I got out of the seminary, I could be an arrogant kind of guy. I had an opinion. I had a bite of sarcasm that could come out. Over time, I lost that edge. I'm more comfortable in being a good listener. I don't have all the answers. I strive to bring all people to the table and listen to them. I've been humbled as a priest as to what has happened in the Church over the past 10, 15 years. I'm more at peace."

**Q. How will becoming a bishop give you the opportunity to increase your efforts to encourage vocations to the priesthood?**

A. "I think I'll be a little more visible in moving around the archdiocese. I'll try to give a very good image of what it means to be a priest. I grew up with good men who were good priests and happy priests. I want to talk about how fulfilled I am as a priest. It's one of the best jobs in the Church as well as in life."

**Q. What advice would you give to someone considering a religious vocation?**

A. "I would say, 'Try it out.' First, I'd say, 'Look at your life. Are you living a life as the Church says we should live our life?' If not, then you're not ready. If you are, then build on that. Come in the seminary and try it. It's not a failure if it doesn't work out after one or two years. You're never going to lose by giving it a shot."

**Q. As a pastor, what is your approach to children in terms of their questions about God and the role he can have in their lives?**

A. "I always try to be welcoming and friendly. When I walk past, the 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds all come to the end of the pews, and they all want to give me a low-five as I pass by. I try to present a very positive, loving demeanor to them. I try to learn their names and their families. I tell them, 'Just remember that God loves you, just like your mom and dad love you.' "

**Q. What is your approach with teenagers in helping them see the importance of continuing to practice their faith and making God a central part of their lives?**

A. "It's a real challenge. More than 50 percent of the people in our confirmation preparation do not attend church with their families. I try to speak to them and their life experiences.

"I'm always trying to be encouraging, to let them know that God has created each and every one of them. I also try to encourage them into social action. We're involved in a local soup kitchen in Boston. We go down to Mississippi once a year to help the people still affected by Hurricane Katrina. They come back energized from that experience."

**Q. Talk about your desire to strengthen the faith of young adults?**

A. "I think the Catholic Church is such a positive and powerful communion for the good. We have so much to offer people, communities and the world. The new evangelization is an opportunity for us to go out and evangelize in a way we haven't in the past. People aren't coming to church as much as they did. By going out to college campuses, by meeting with young people, it's a really exciting opportunity for me because they are the future of the Church."

**Q. What do you hope to accomplish as the auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese?**

A. "I really want to work with Archbishop Buechlein, the priests and the people of the archdiocese. I want to do so in a way that they see me as a co-worker with them, a brother who walks with them, to further the work of the Church in whatever way needs to be done. If the archbishop needs me to go out to the parishes and the schools, that's what I'll do.

"If listening to my brother priests is where I need to be, that's what I'll do. I'll take my cue from whatever the community needs me to do." †



The Bishop is the steward of grace of the supreme priesthood, especially in the Eucharist. . . . The Eucharist is the center of life of the particular Church. The Bishop and priests sanctify the Church by their prayer and work, by their ministry of the word and of the sacraments. They sanctify her by their example, not as domineering over those in their charge but being examples to the flock. Thus, together with the flock entrusted to them, they may attain to eternal life.

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church #893

O'Meara Ferguson welcomes Bishop-elect Christopher J. Coyne to his new ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis. We promise our prayerful support as he assumes his new responsibility as a "steward of grace" for the Church in central and southern Indiana.

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as he begins his ministry as  
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from

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*'It's been 111 years since we've had a bishop ordained in this church. Since bishops have lived there in the past, it's a fitting place for Bishop Coyne to live.'*

*—Father Stephen Giannini, the former pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, who now serves as the full-time vicar for Clergy and Parish Life Coordinators: Formation and Personnel as well as the vice chancellor of the archdiocese*



The interior of historic St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis features a high, arched ceiling in the nave, arched side chapels, an ornate high altar made of marble imported from Italy, an elevated Gothic-style ambo and 25 large stained-glass windows.

## ST. JOHN

continued from page 17B

Bishop-designate Coyne will serve as the vicar general of the archdiocese, and reside at St. John's rectory with Father Rick Nagel, the new administrator of St. John the Evangelist Parish, and Father William Stumpf, who was recently appointed the moderator of the curia for the archdiocese.

Father Stephen Giannini, the former pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, now serves as the full-time vicar for Clergy and Parish Life Coordinators: Formation and Personnel as well as the vice chancellor of the archdiocese.

He said that St. John the Evangelist Parish was chosen by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein for Bishop-designate Coyne's residence because the historic downtown parish is located close to the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center at 1400 N. Meridian St.

"It's been 111 years since we've had a bishop ordained in this church," Father Giannini said, referring to Bishop O'Donoghue's ordination Mass.

"Since bishops have lived there in the past," he said, "it's a fitting place for Bishop Coyne to live."

With its tall twin spires and grand façade, he said, "St. John the Evangelist Church is, in many ways, the Catholic 'front door' to the city of Indianapolis because it is so close to the Indiana Convention Center across the street, the downtown hotels and the events that occur downtown.

"There will be times when Bishop Coyne will preside at Mass at St. John's," Father Giannini said, "and it will be a nice way to welcome our visitors and guests as well as the many people from the archdiocese that visit downtown Indianapolis on weekends."

The parish has a fascinating history.

According to archdiocesan records, Father Vincent Bacquelin, the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County, visited Indianapolis monthly, and began celebrating Masses for Irish and German Catholic immigrants in 1837 at a tavern near Washington and West streets. He later purchased the land and had a frame church built there.

Father John Guéguen supervised the construction of a much larger brick church at the corner of Capitol and Georgia streets in 1850, which he named for his patron saint.

The cornerstone for St. John the Evangelist Church was put in place on July 21, 1867, during a ceremony conducted by Bishop St. Palais.

Although construction work continued, the church was dedicated on July 2, 1871, by Archbishop John B. Purcell of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Architect Diedrich A. Bohlen blended French Gothic and American Romanesque design elements in its construction.

Bohlen also designed the former St. John's School for Boys and the former St. John's Academy for girls near the church.

Bishop Chatard also hired Boylen to build an addition on the St. John rectory for use as an episcopal residence and chancery.

An ornate high altar made of marble imported from Italy, an elevated Gothic-style ambo, arched side chapels and 25 large stained-glass windows are among the unique design elements in the huge church.

Major construction work on St. John the Evangelist Church was officially completed in 1893—22 years after the church was dedicated—and the downtown parish has enjoyed a rich history in the life of Indiana's capital city. †

**Congratulations to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' new auxiliary bishop, Bishop-elect Christopher Coyne!**

*The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods* welcome Bishop Coyne to his new position and invite him to visit the Shrine of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin honoring the Congregation's foundress and 8th U.S. saint. We wish you many blessed years of service in your new position.

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**Welcome, Father Christopher J. Coyne!**

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- Sacred Heart of Jesus - Terre Haute
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- St. Joseph, - Universal
- St. Joseph University Parish - Terre Haute
- St. Leonard of Port Maurice - West Terre Haute
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- St. Patrick - Terre Haute
- St. Paul the Apostle - Greencastle
- Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center
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## Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

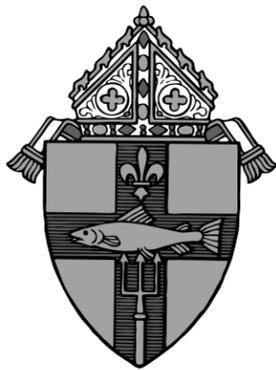
# Congratulations Bishop Coyne on your ordination!

*Through the grace of Holy Orders  
 may you "stir into flame the gift of  
 God that you have through the  
 imposition of my hands."*

*(2 Tim. 1:5)*

The Staff, Advisory Board and Volunteers  
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 hold you in prayer.

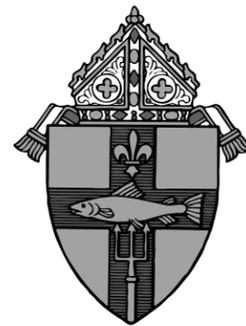
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Welcome  
 Bishop Christopher Coyne

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 Heartfelt Congratulations  
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*May the road rise to meet you during  
 your ministry*



Sincere Congratulations  
 to  
 Bishop Christopher Coyne  
 from  
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- St. Bartholomew
- Holy Trinity
- St. Rose of Lima
- Prince of Peace
- St. Mary
- St. Ann
- St. Joseph
- St. Patrick
- Church of the American Martyrs
- St. Ambrose
- Most Sorrowful Mother of God

*Our Prayers are with you*



Submitted photo

In this 1960 photo, the four big brothers of the Coyne family are all smiles as they embrace their first sister. From left, Danny, Brian, Patty, Chris and Terry Coyne pose together.

## FAMILY

continued from page 2B

said. Bill just had the right attitude about it. I know Chris will do an excellent job. Whatever he does, he always puts his whole heart in it."

### From trouble to cool and holy

As her son looks forward to becoming an auxiliary bishop, his mother shares some memories of a time when his destiny didn't seem possible.

"Growing up, he was very mischievous," Rita Coyne says. "He was always into trouble, little things. On teacher-parent meeting days, I always went to his teacher first to hear the bad things. Then I'd go to his sisters' teachers and hear all the wonderful things. He almost got thrown out of Scouts, but a couple of leaders persevered. He's not Mister Goody Two Shoes."

But he is a good priest and pastor, she says. And she wanted that quality to shine through when his official photos as an auxiliary bishop were taken.

"He asked me about the photos, and I told him to choose the one with the smile because he loves being a priest," she says. "There's not a lot of happiness in the world, and if you can show people that you're happy, you should."

Even his sister, Patricia, gives him points for his personality.

"Chris is very good with almost any age group," she says. "He prides himself on staying current even with the minutia of pop culture, especially as it relates to younger people. Unlike some people our age, he can tell you who SpongeBob SquarePants and Justin Bieber are. The young nieces and nephews love him."

"He's a little bit of a contradiction in that he likes his solitude, and finds it important, I think, for his spiritual life. At the same time, he is very social, the more-the-merrier kind of guy. He is the party hoster/organizer for the family, the kind of guy that in years past was in charge of the annual sandcastle-building on the beach in Maine, and who recently hosted a 50th wedding anniversary party for an aunt and uncle."

He is also a "cool uncle," according to his 26-year-old nephew, Michael Silverman, Patricia's son.

"I'm amazed at how easily he connects with every age group, especially younger people," Michael says. "When I was in college, he was invited to speak to the Catholic group on my campus, and [he] came and stayed for dinner afterward, even though it was two hours in each direction out of his way. He has always been great around me and my cousins, taking us to sporting events, movies and concerts. When I told one of my friends that he had been made a bishop, my friend asked, 'Is this the cool uncle you have?'"

### 'You are lucky to have him'

All those people qualities will be part of his gift as an auxiliary bishop, family members say.

"He will be very accessible to people," his mother says. "I think the priests will like him. He believes in them. He believes the parish is where it all starts."

And here's one final point from his sister, Patricia.

"I know he has a lot to offer the archdiocese," she says. "But while he is certainly a learned, spiritual person who will provide leadership, he is also a regular guy. He is your brother, son, uncle, friend—a guy with a wicked sense of humor that you would be happy to spend time with talking about the last book you read, the game you watched or just the state of the world in general."

"I know he's happy for this opportunity, and I am happy for all of you in Indianapolis because he is really a good guy on so many levels. You are lucky to have him." †



Submitted photo

At a family gathering in the summer of 1996, Kyle Gillis gets a lift from his uncle, Bishop-designate Christopher Coyne, while Kyle's father, Stephen, watches and Bishop-designate Coyne's niece, Christina Coyne, smiles for the photographer.

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### *Bishop Dale J. Melczek*

*and the Church of Gary  
extend a hearty welcome to*

## *Bishop Christopher J. Coyne*

*and ask for God's abundant blessings upon him  
as he assists Archbishop Buechlein in ministering  
to the Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis.*



# Family memories



A summer get-together in the past offers the perfect opportunity for a photograph of the extended family of Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, who is standing in the center of the back row.

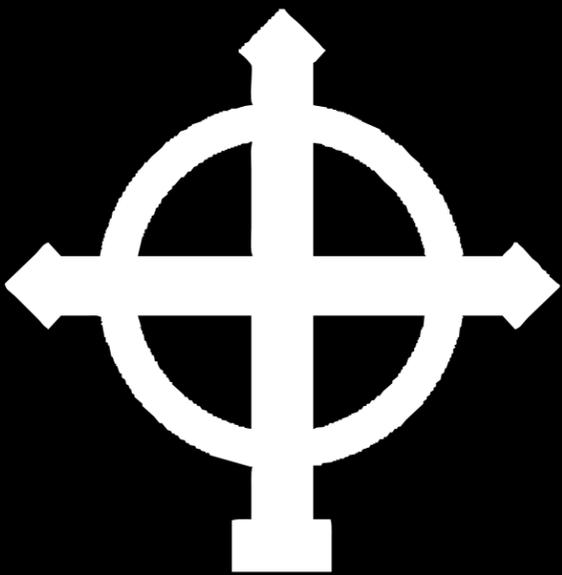


Then-Father Christopher J. Coyne shares a special moment with his parents, William and Rita, on the day of his first Mass after being ordained a priest in June of 1986.



Above, then-Father Christopher J. Coyne gives Communion to his sister, Patricia (Coyne) Silverman, during his first Mass as a priest in June of 1986 at St. Barbara Church in Woburn, Mass.

Left, a wide smile and a tie to match are both worn by Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, standing, back row, third from left, during a long-ago family photograph when everyone seemed to be enjoying a fun moment together.



The students, faculty and staff at  
Cathedral High School  
congratulate and welcome

**Bishop Christopher J. Coyne**

on the occasion of his installation as  
Auxiliary Bishop of the  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



*May God Bless and Guide You*

Congratulations to the  
Archbishop, the clergy  
and laity of the Archdiocese  
and to Bishop Coyne.



Bishop David L. Ricken,  
Bishop Robert Banks,  
Bishop Robert Morneau,  
the priests, religious and  
faithful of the  
Diocese of Green Bay.



Diocese of  
Green Bay

# Priest friends admire Bishop-designate Coyne's humility

By Sean Gallagher

Prayerful. Humble. Approachable. A man of the people. A man of the Church.

That is how several priests and a bishop who know Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne describe their friend, who will be ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Church in central and southern Indiana on March 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

Father Aaron Pfaff is one of a few priests ministering in the archdiocese who knew the soon-to-be-auxiliary bishop before his appointment.

Currently the administrator of St. Augustine Parish in Leopold, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia and Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix, Father Pfaff was formed for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in Boston as a seminarian for the Diocese of Manchester, N.H.

He is seeking to be incardinated as a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Father Pfaff's last year in the seminary was Bishop-designate Coyne's first year as a member of its faculty. As a transitional deacon, he was led by Bishop-designate Coyne in a practicum that helped him and his classmates learn how to celebrate the Mass.

"What he [taught] was more than an academic science," Father Pfaff said. "It was the love of his life. He led us deeper into that love. He taught us how to pray what we're celebrating, to pray the Mass."

Father Pfaff also appreciated the way in which Bishop-designate Coyne related to him and his seminary classmates.

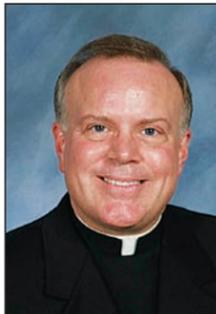
"It was as if he was one of us, not necessarily as an authority over us," Father Pfaff said. "He kind of led us as a group forward, almost like brother peers. ... He was approachable, down-to-earth, accessible."

Although Father Pfaff only interacted

closely with Bishop-designate Coyne for about a year, his observations echo the comments made about him by friends and colleagues that have known him for decades.

Father Mark Mahoney, the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Topsfield, Mass., was a seminary classmate of Bishop-designate Coyne and has remained a friend for 25 years.

"He's one of those people who you could talk to about anything from the theology that you were studying to current events to sports," Father Mahoney said. "He was knowledgeable on all



Fr. Mark Mahoney

subjects and very easy to talk to. "He's very easygoing and a man of the people. He's anything but haughty. He's humble. And that makes him very approachable."

That humility and hospitality is manifested in special ways with his brother priests, whom he regularly invited to his rectory at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., for dinner on Saturday nights.

Father Mahoney sees a connection between this hospitality and the way he welcomed his parishioners to the table of the Lord at Mass.

"He celebrates the sacraments wonderfully and prayerfully," Father Mahoney said. "The Saturday evening vigil Mass is well prepared. "But he might well, at the same time, have meats marinating in his kitchen to be prepared later that evening after the celebration of the liturgy for six to 10 priests of the neighboring parishes to

come over and have a meal with him."

Msgr. Cornelius McRae, the pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in nearby Norwood, Mass., was often one of those dinner guests.

Msgr. McRae was ordained in 1961 when Bishop-designate Coyne was just 2. Despite their difference in age and pastoral experience, Msgr. McRae holds his younger colleague—whom he said is

"talented in the pulpit and in the kitchen"—in high esteem.

"He is an energetic and reliable spokesman for the faith. He's a wonderful communicator—under fire, I might add," said Msgr. McRae, referring to when

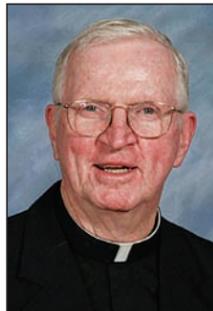
Bishop-designate Coyne served as a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Boston from 2002-05 during the height of the priestly sex abuse crisis.

"That was tough duty every night [on TV] facing the hostility of ... a good part of the world," Msgr. McRae said.



*'What he [taught] was more than an academic science. It was the love of his life. He led us deeper into that love. He taught us how to pray what we're celebrating, to pray the Mass.'*

*—Father Aaron Pfaff, who was a student of Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne at St. John's Seminary in Boston*



Msgr. Cornelius McRae

"It was a time when many Boston priests will say that it was difficult to be in public wearing the clerical collar," Father Mahoney said. "And yet, there he was almost nightly on the news doing so in the most public of manners."

Father Mark Hunt, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who has known Bishop-designate Coyne since they were graduate students in Rome in the 1990s, said those trying times in the Archdiocese of Boston challenged the peace-filled joy his friend had found in his vocation.

"It was tested," Father Hunt said. "And it was tested in ways that he will never speak about and that only people very close to him will know about."

The priestly fraternity that Bishop-designate Coyne nurtured over the years became a source of support for him during that time.

However, Bishop Richard G. Lennon said, his priest friends weren't the most important source.

"To a considerable extent, it was his relationship with God that was the foundation," said Bishop Lennon of Cleveland, Ohio. "Then, certainly building on that, was the whole

See FRIENDS, page 27B

## The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Catholic Committee on Scouting



**Welcomes**

**His Excellency  
Most Reverend Christopher Coyne  
Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis**

Bishop Coyne, please know of our gratitude and prayers for you as you begin your ministry to the Church in Central and Southern Indiana.

From the Catholic Committee on Scouting, serving scouts in the Archdiocese through retreats and religious emblem programs.

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*The Sisters of  
St. Benedict of  
Our Lady of Grace  
Monastery look  
forward to Seeking  
God with Bishop  
Christopher Coyne.*

# Archdiocese is getting an auxiliary bishop with many gifts, friend says

By Msgr. Peter Conley  
Special to *The Criterion*

BOSTON—We in Boston were surprised but not shocked when the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, selected one of our best—Father Christopher J. Coyne—and sent him to you as your new auxiliary bishop.

Not shocked because of his personal reputation and priestly accomplishments, but very much surprised because we thought he would be assigned to wear a zucchetto—the bishop’s skullcap—locally. We give him to you graciously but reluctantly.

Chris is a pastor, a former seminary professor, a liturgist, a communicator, a fine cook and a close friend.

As the pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Mass., he inherited a suburban parish in serious need of new leadership.

In just a few years, Chris proved that it could be done. The parish is well-staffed, runs smoothly, and is known for its fine religious education program, its exquisite music, parish outreach and solid preaching. It’s rumored that neighboring parishioners are tip-toeing across ecclesiastical lines to worship there.

Chris is an alumnus of the

University of Massachusetts Lowell, Boston’s St. John Seminary and the Athenaeum of San Anselmo on Rome’s Aventine hill, and has a doctorate in liturgy.

Chris is a fine preacher, always prepared, never flamboyant. His words are engaging because he reveals in his homilies that he has been informed and formed by the word of God.

The best compliment came from a parishioner who happens to be my older brother. He is one who does not give his heart away lightly and is slow to praise. He told me, “I like him. His homilies have a beginning, a middle, an end and a point. That’s not bad!”

When Boston was the epicenter of the clergy sex abuse scandal, Chris Coyne was tapped to be the spokesman for the archdiocese in dealing with an understandably frenzied media. His voice was clear, direct and honest. He was never mealy-mouthed, never falsely defensive and always fair.

It was a painful and demoralizing time for a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston, but when Chris came on the tube, we knew his words were true. Not surprisingly, he earned the respect of the local media moguls.

We are, however, sending you a new auxiliary bishop with a

*Chris is a fine preacher, always prepared, never flamboyant. His words are engaging because he reveals in his homilies that he has been informed and formed by the word of God.*



Bishop-designate Christopher J. Coyne, center, poses during a recent dinner at his Westwood, Mass., rectory with Father Leroy Owen, from left, Msgr. Peter Conley, Father John Grimes, Father William Burkhardt and Father John Sullivan. During his time as the pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Westwood, Bishop-designate Coyne fostered priestly fraternity by frequently hosting dinners with fellow priests on Saturday evenings.

distinct provincial liability. He talks funny. But he talks like the rest of us locals—in Massachusetts. The broad “A” and the swallowed “R” are not affectations. They are a regional lingual flaw. When he reads the responsorial psalm, “If today you heeah His voice, hahden not your hahts,” don’t laugh. He “cahnt” help it.

Your new bishop likes priests and enjoys their company—not all equally, of course. He hosts a

Saturday evening dinner that finds a half dozen priests driving to Westwood after their vigil Masses for an “attitudinal adjustment hour” followed by comfort food cooked by Chris. There, the banter flows freely, the conversation is spirited and relaxed candor prevails. By the way, he makes a mean *pasta alla norcina* that you will love. Ask for it.

Your new bishop is also a man to look up to. Considering he is 6 feet 4 inches tall, it is a matter of

necessity for most of us. Let me assure you, however, that very shortly this stranger from the East who talks funny will be a gentleman you look up to with respect.

We in Boston are left with one question: Who’s going to cook Saturday’s supper?

We shall miss him and his friendship dearly.

(Msgr. Peter Conley is the pastor of St. Jude Parish in Norfolk, Mass.) †

## FRIENDS

continued from page 26B

relationship with priests. That certainly strengthened it.”

Bishop Lennon previously served as an auxiliary bishop and the apostolic administrator of the Boston Archdiocese.

While serving as his previous local Church’s

spokesman during a difficult time, Bishop-designate Coyne was confronted with the brokenness of humanity on a regular basis.

But Father Hunt said that a deep core of his friend’s life of faith—an authentic humility that acknowledges both his own as well as other people’s gifts and limitations—helped him do that well.

Father Hunt was reminded of this by Bishop-designate Coyne’s humorous response to a

question about his episcopal motto during a Jan. 14 press conference at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.



Bishop Richard G. Lennon

At the time, the bishop-designate told the media that he had looked in the Bible for “It is what it is,” but couldn’t find it there.

According to Father Hunt, Bishop-designate Coyne had used that saying while trying to console him during some difficult times in Rome.

“He’d say, ‘Mark, it is what it is,’” Father Hunt recalled. “‘We’d love it to be perfect. We’d love it to be all the times edifying. But it is

what it is, and it’s the human condition. And how’s the redemption of Jesus Christ going to break into it? And how are we going to let it [break in]?’”

Father Hunt said this underlying humility helped his friend maintain a sense of peace and joy despite the hardships he has faced over the years. And he expects it to continue in the new bishop’s episcopal ministry in the archdiocese.

“My hope is, if anything, that the peace and joy that he has had as a pastor in Westwood would continue in his life as an auxiliary [bishop] in Indianapolis,” Father Hunt said. “That was contagious in the parish. [The] Westwood [parishioners] knew that they had a priest who loves being a priest.”

Bishop Lennon said he hopes that his soon-to-be brother bishop will “always remain true to who he has been.”

“He’s certainly a man of the Church and he’s a man of integrity,” Bishop Lennon said. “He takes his responsibilities seriously, and is able to do it in a way that ... is sociable and outreaching to people. But, primarily, he’s a man of the Church who lives his life with great integrity.”

For his part, Father Pfaff is eager to have his former seminary professor minister with him in central and southern Indiana, and he sees the local Church here as a good place for Bishop-designate Coyne to minister with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

“I see the Archdiocese of Indianapolis [as] being spiritually alive and welcoming,” Father Pfaff said. “The fraternity of priests is real. The presbyterate is solid and holy. I think he’s going to be very much supported and uplifted by his new archdiocesan family here even though he’s going to be removed from his family and friends [in Boston].”

“I’m thrilled,” Father Pfaff said. “This is good.” †

**Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.**

**and the Catholic faithful  
of the Archdiocese of Louisville**

**send congratulations  
and prayerful best wishes to**

**Bishop Christopher Coyne**

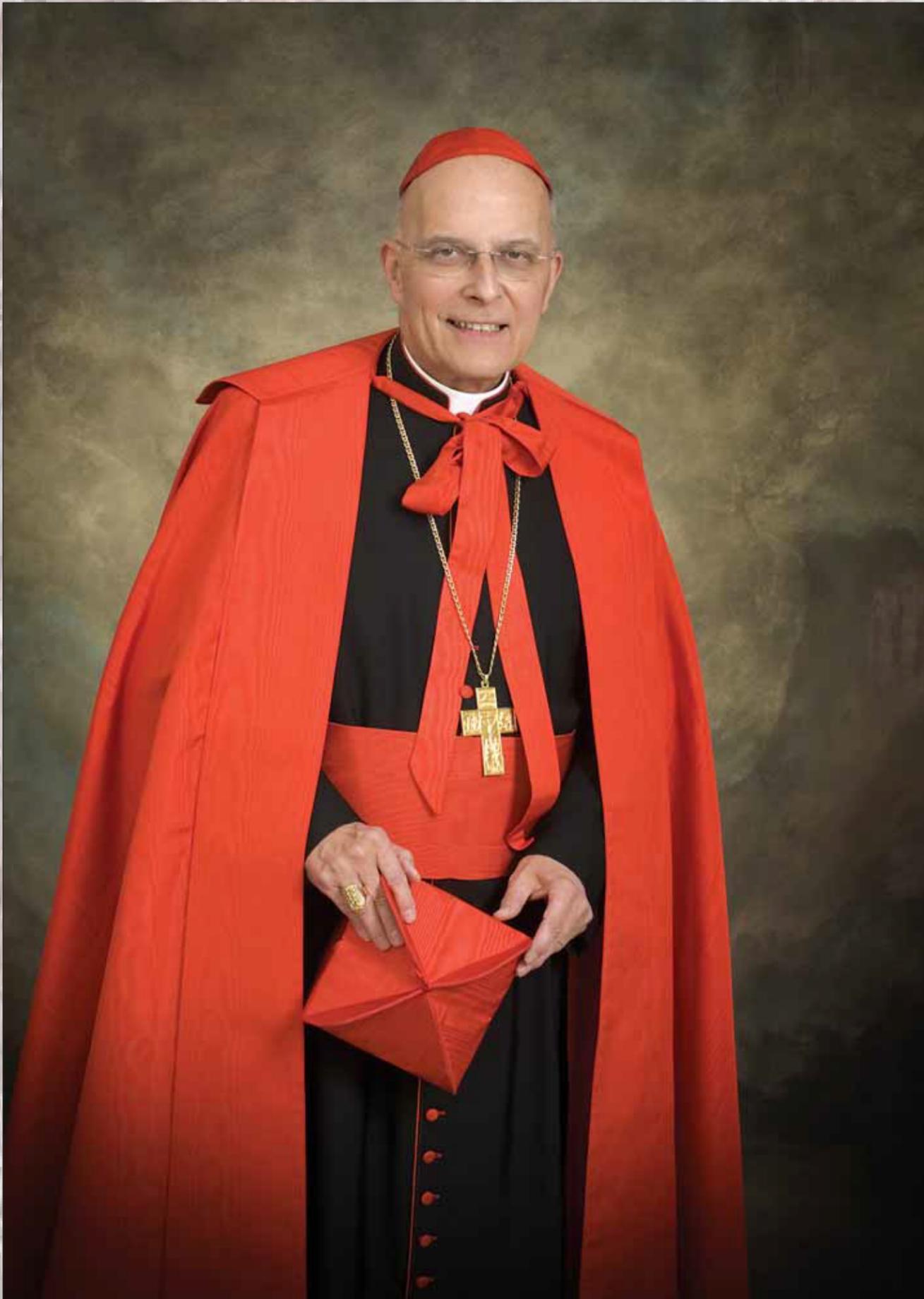
**on his ordination and installation**

**as Auxiliary Bishop of the  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis**



# FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE, OMI

and the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago



celebrate and pray for God's blessing  
on the new Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis

## BISHOP CHRISTOPHER COYNE

