



PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT FROM FATHER CHARLES RITTER, DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR ON THE APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP DANIEL THOMAS TO TOLEDO DIOCESE

August 26, 2014 — Over the past eight months, we have prayed for “the man who will become our Bishop.” That man is now present among us in the person of Bishop Daniel Thomas, and we joyfully welcome him to the Toledo Diocese as our eighth Bishop.

Bishop Thomas has been one of the Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia since his episcopal consecration in 2006. He brings a wealth of experience to Toledo—his ministry in Philadelphia, his work in the Roman Curia with the Congregation for Bishops, and his ministry as spiritual director at the North American College in Rome (where he came to know a number of our Toledo seminarians).

He comes to Toledo from a much larger archdiocese, with a different history and culture. It will take time for us to get to know him, and for him to truly feel at home with us. He comes as our Bishop, our link to the universal church and the College of Bishops gathered

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around the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome. Under his guidance we as a local church are called to grow closer to God in prayer, in understanding the riches of our Catholic faith tradition, and in putting that faith into practice as our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, has urged us to do.

It is perhaps ironic that when Bishop Thomas was consecrated in 2006, he was named—as is customary—the “titular” bishop of a diocese which was once an active part of the life of the church but is no longer a diocesan see. He was named the Titular Bishop of Bardstown, Kentucky. After the initial establishment of the Diocese of Baltimore in 1789 (the first Diocese in the United States), a further four dioceses were established in 1808—Boston, New York, Philadelphia and the “frontier” diocese of Bardstown, Kentucky. Bardstown included all of the new nation west of the Alleghenies, including the present territory of the Diocese of Toledo. The Titular Bishop of Bardstown has become the Ordinary—the Diocesan Bishop—of Toledo.

Welcome home, Bishop Thomas!

The Diocese of Toledo, established April 15, 1910 encompasses 8222 square miles in a mixture of urban and rural areas that spans 19 counties across Northwest, serving 319,189 Catholics in 124 parishes. The diocese includes Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot counties.

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