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Andrew D. Rivas, J.D.
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Texas Catholic Conference congratulates Cardinal-designate DiNardo

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas Catholic Conference congratulates Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo, who was recently named Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI. He will be installed at the Vatican on November 24, 2007, along with 22 others. A Cardinal is appointed by the Pope to serve as one of his key advisers. The College of Cardinals is also the body that elects new popes.

“This appointment is wonderful news,” stated Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza, also of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. “Archbishop DiNardo is a hardworking wonderful bishop who is greatly appreciated both here in his diocese and in Rome. This appointment is a recognition of his wonderful priestly qualities, and is an important recognition by the Vatican of the Church of Galveston-Houston, of the South and of the Southwest.”

Cardinal-designate DiNardo, currently Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, will be the state’s first Cardinal. He was appointed Archbishop of Galveston-Houston in February, 2006, making him the pastoral leader of 1.3 million Catholics in the Archdiocese. Texas has over 7 million Catholics.

“Archbishop DiNardo’s appointment is a particular joy to Texas, a state rich in Catholic history and presence,” stated Bishop James Tamayo of the Diocese of Laredo, who is the previous chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Hispanic Affairs.

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In addition, Bishop Tamayo recognizes the importance of this appointment for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, an area with the second largest population of Hispanics in the United States. “I am delighted that we are acknowledged by the Holy Father for our years of fidelity to the Church and the continued growth of the Church in the Southwest. I think it is distinct honor for the Southwest part of the United States to have a Cardinal within our territory.”

Attesting to his personal experiences with Cardinal-designate DiNardo, Bishop Tamayo stated, “Having served as an auxiliary bishop in the community of Galveston-Houston, I am delighted that Archbishop DiNardo’s care and concern for the multicultural communities of that Archdiocese are recognized by Rome, bestowing honor not only upon himself, but also the multicultural church in Galveston-Houston.”

Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth also offered praise for his brother Bishop. “All of the Dioceses in Texas are very honored by the elevation of Archbishop DiNardo as a Cardinal. I have known Archbishop DiNardo for years. His friendship and encouragement has been a personal blessing. We all rejoice in the Lord, and pray for him and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston these days.”

Cardinal-designate DiNardo currently serves on the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He also serves as the USCCB Advisor to the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and the National Catholic Partnership for Persons with Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

For more information on Cardinal-elect DiNardo and his brother Bishops of Texas, please visit TXcatholic.org.

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