

Archbishop Transition FAQ

How is a new archbishop chosen?

Canon 401 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law states that all bishops must submit their resignation to the pope at the age of 75. The pope can accept their resignation at that time, or ask them to stay on until their successor is chosen. All aspects of the process of choosing a successor are supposed to be confidential, but there are some things that are known. The papal nuncio will present a list of candidates for investigation to (in the case of the U.S.) the Congregation of the Bishops in the Roman Curia. The congregation then reports to the pope, who makes the final decision.

Does the new archbishop have to already be a bishop?

Though it happens very rarely, a newly-named archbishop need not be a bishop first. In such a case, however, the new archbishop would need to be ordained as a bishop before he could be installed as an archbishop.

What's the difference between an archbishop and a bishop?

An archbishop is the head of an archdiocese, which is a designation given to a particularly important diocese. In sacred matters, an archbishop is the equivalent of a bishop, but “archbishop” is considered to be a more prestigious title. As the residential bishop, an archbishop is also known as the local ordinary.

When in the ceremony does the new Archbishop take over the archdiocese?

After the Apostolic Letter of Appointment from Pope Benedict XVI is read, Cardinal Maida will lead Archbishop Vigneron to the *cathedra*, the chair of the archbishop, and present him with the *crozier*. At that point, Archbishop Vigneron is officially archbishop of Detroit.

What is the *cathedra*? How is it different from a *cathedral*?

Cathedra is Latin for “chair” and refers to the chair or “throne” of a bishop. The building, the church, which houses the chair of the bishop is called a *cathedral*. Only the bishop of the diocese can sit in the *cathedra* of his diocese. When Pope John Paul II came to Detroit in 1987, he was given another special chair to sit in while celebrating Mass at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This chair remains on display at the cathedral.

What is a *crozier*?

The *crozier* is a large staff with a hooked top resembling a shepherd's crook that is given to bishops during their ordination to the episcopacy (when they are made bishops) to symbolize their role as shepherds of the faithful. Usually, it is carried in the left hand and with the crook facing away from the bishop.

What is the *mitre*? Who can wear one?

The distinguished folding cap worn by certain church officials is known as a *mitre*. The rules for who can wear mitres and what they look like are very proscribed: only popes, cardinals, and bishops can wear a mitre, and the style of mitre that they wear changes with the liturgical calendar. A bishop is given his mitre as part of the ceremony of consecration when he becomes a bishop, and he removes the mitre when praying—1 Corinthians 11:4 says that we should pray with our heads uncovered.

How does an archbishop relate to his ecclesiastical province?

An archdiocese, called the *metropolitan see*, and dioceses under it, called *suffragan sees*, are grouped into a province. The Code of Canon Law spells out certain limited obligations and authority that the

metropolitan archbishop has with respect to the dioceses within his ecclesiastical province. The Province of Detroit includes the seven dioceses in Michigan (Dioceses of Detroit, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, and Saginaw). Detroit's archbishop serves as the metropolitan. In a separate ceremony later this year in Rome, newly-named metropolitan archbishops will receive a church vestment from the pope known as a *pallium*, a symbol of the jurisdiction given to them. It is worn outside the chasuble and resembles the letter 'Y.'

How does Detroit's archbishop relate to the Michigan Catholic Conference?

Founded in 1963, the Michigan Catholic Conference serves as the official voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan on matters of public policy. The Board of Directors is comprised of the seven diocesan bishops plus five lay persons, one priest, and one religious sister. The Archbishop of Detroit serves as chairman.

What's the difference between an archbishop and a cardinal?

Cardinals are senior ecclesial officials in the Catholic Church. A cardinal's duties include attending meetings of the College of Cardinals and being available—personally or collectively—to the Pope for counsel. Most cardinals have additional duties within the Church, such as leading a diocese or heading a department in the Roman Curia. The College of Cardinals also is the body that elects a new pope.

In addition, dioceses that are headed by cardinals can display a red hat (called a *gallero*) with fifteen tassels over the diocesan coat of arms. Dioceses headed by bishops display a green gallero and a differing number of tassels—ten for an archbishop, six for a bishop. In accordance with the change in gallero color, the official letterhead and other symbols of the Archdiocese of Detroit will change to green instead of red, to reflect the fact that we are lead by an archbishop.

Will Cardinal Maida still be a cardinal?

Yes. He will hold the title of cardinal for the rest of his life. However, only cardinals under the age of 80 can sit in the conclave that elects a new pope.

Can Cardinal Maida still vote for the next pope?

It depends on when there will be a need for another conclave. If a new conclave is needed before Cardinal Maida's 80th birthday, on March 18, 2010, then he can participate in the conclave and vote for the next pope. However, after the age of 80, cardinals cannot sit in the conclave.

Who is the longest-serving cardinal?

Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan, retired archbishop of Seoul, South Korea and Cardinal Eugênio de Araújo Sales, retired archbishop of São Sebastião de Rio de Janeiro are the two longest-serving cardinals, both appointed by Pope Paul VI at the consistory of April 28, 1969.

Cardinal William Wakefield Baum, appointed by Pope Paul VI at the consistory of May 24, 1976, is the longest-serving American cardinal.

Cardinal Paul Mayer, OSB, of Germany is the oldest living cardinal, born in 1911. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II at the consistory of May 25, 1985.

Who are the oldest and youngest serving bishops?

The youngest bishop is 38-year-old Bishop Mihai Cătălin Frățilă of Romania.

Bishop Francis Hong Yong-ho of Pyong-yang, South Korea, is the longest-serving bishop, having been ordained a bishop on June 29, 1944. He is 102 years old.