



**Statement of W. Francis Malooly**  
**on his Appointment as Bishop of Wilmington**

July 7, 2008 --- (Wilmington, DE) --- I expressed my gratitude to Pope Benedict at last week's General Audience in Rome. I thanked him for appointing me the 9th Bishop of Wilmington and expressed my prayerful desire to serve God's people in this great diocese, which has been blessed with such fine stewardship through the years.

I want to publicly acknowledge how happy I am to come to the diocese where my good friend, Bishop Saltarelli, has served as bishop. Our friendship dates back to 1994 when we worked together preparing for a Papal visit and I have continued to work with him through our association with the Maryland Catholic Conference and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. I am grateful for his friendship and for his service to God's people in Wilmington, and I am sure I will be depending upon him for support and guidance in the months and years ahead.

To the people and priests of the Diocese, I very much look forward to meeting you and to discussing how we can best work together in service to our Church and to our God. I have come to know many of the priests—including those who are consultors—and I look forward to getting to know their brothers, as well as the deacons, religious, and seminarians of the diocese.

Finally, it is with sadness that I prepare to take leave of my responsibilities at the Archdiocese of Baltimore. I have been blessed beyond measure to serve with many fine priests and bishops and to serve so many wonderful people in my hometown.

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