



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

EMBARGOED UNTIL APRIL 8, 2013, 4 a.m. (MST)

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Denver archbishop congratulates new bishop of Fargo

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila is offering "congratulations, prayers and friendship" to Msgr. John Folda, who was named today as the bishop of Fargo, North Dakota.

Archbishop Aquila led the Diocese of Fargo until last May, when he was named Archbishop of Denver.

A native of Omaha, Neb., Bishop-elect Folda was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Lincoln in 1989. Since 1999, he has served as rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Neb.

In a statement released today, the archbishop affirmed that "Bishop-elect Folda is a man of deep faith, warm leadership, and unwavering fidelity to the teachings of the Church. My heart is filled with joy for the Church of Fargo."

The full text of the statement follows:

This morning, His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Msgr. John Folda as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fargo. I am grateful to the Holy Father for the extraordinary man of faith and leader he has called to serve the Church of eastern North Dakota.

Bishop-elect Folda has served as a pastor, in the diocesan leadership, and as the rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary for the past fourteen years. At the heart of a bishop's ministry is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus

Christ and a deep love for the Church, the Bride of Christ, in order to bring those entrusted to his pastoral care into intimacy and union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He carries out this mission in collaboration with his priests in service to the People of God, the Body of Christ—the particular Church he serves. Bishop-elect Folda’s seminary work prepares him uniquely for that mission.

Bishop-elect Folda is a man of deep faith, warm leadership, and unwavering fidelity to the teachings of the Church. My heart is filled with joy for the Church of Fargo, and I join the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Fargo in offering him my sincere congratulations, my prayers, and my friendship.

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.
Archbishop of Denver

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