

For Immediate Release

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Archbishop says auxiliary's appointment a blessing and honor

(Seattle) Commenting on the announcement by the Vatican on Tuesday, April 12 that Archdiocese of Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Tyson has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Yakima, Archbishop J. Peter Sartain said it was a blessing that reflected the gifts of the local clergy.

"We will miss him, of course." Archbishop Sartain said upon learning that Pope Benedict XVI had accepted the resignation of Bishop Carlos Sevilla, who had submitted his resignation in August 2010 having reached the mandatory age of 75, and appointed Bishop Tyson as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Yakima.

"It's also an honor for the Archdiocese of Seattle that the Vatican has recognized the talent of one of our priests by naming him bishop of Yakima," Archbishop Sartain said. "It speaks of the quality and pastoral skills of our priests here in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

"It also is a blessing for the Diocese of Yakima because Bishop Tyson was born there," Archbishop Sartain said.

Bishop Tyson was born in Moses Lake in 1957 and raised in Seattle, where he graduated from St. Alphonsus Elementary School in Ballard. He graduated from Bishop Blanchet High school in 1975 and attended the University of Washington where he earned undergraduate degrees in Russian and Eastern European Area Studies and editorial journalism in 1980.

He completed his master's degree in International Relations at the University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies in 1984. In 1989, he received his masters in divinity from the Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

"Bishop Tyson's appointment is a blessing because he will be missed," said the archbishop. "I have enjoyed working with him and have grown to appreciate his intelligence and skill, the qualities that will enable him to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people of the Yakima Diocese."

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