

## **Statement on the Occasion of the Appointment of Bishop Blase Cupich as Bishop of Spokane**

The prospect of my departure from western South Dakota fills me with great sadness. Yet, the dominant sentiment in my heart today is one of gratitude and admiration for all the many blessings I have received from the people I have served here. I will remain indebted to the lay women and men, religious and priests for the rest of my life. To paraphrase St. Paul, "every time I will think of you, I will give thanks to God."

Blessings have also come from the wider civic community, as I have seen the determination of people from different faiths and backgrounds to work together to form a more just society and to build up the common good. I thank everyone who has extended a hand in friendship and collaboration. It has been a privilege to be a South Dakotan, a title I will continue to treasure as I move to eastern Washington.

July 1, 2010