

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Installation of Archbishop George J. Lucas at St. Cecilia Cathedral

Wednesday Mass to be broadcast live to 82 million homes

July 22, 2009 (OMAHA, NE) – The Most Reverend George J. Lucas will be installed as the tenth bishop of the Archdiocese of Omaha at 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St.. The Mass of Installation begins at 2 p.m. with a procession that includes cardinals, archbishops and bishops from all over the country, including Cardinals Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Francis George of Chicago.

Local seminarians will lead the lengthy procession, followed by more than 200 priests. Following the entrance procession, in accord with ancient traditions, Archbishop Lucas will knock on the massive main doors of St. Cecilia Cathedral with a wooden hammer. He will then be welcomed by Cathedral Rector, the Rev. Michael Gutsell, and members of the College of Consultors.

As part of the welcome, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambini, will read an English translation of the Apostolic letter of appointment from Pope Benedict XVI, known as a “papal bull.” Rev. Joseph Taphorn will present the document to the congregation. The Nuncio and Archbishop Emeritus Curtiss will then lead Archbishop Lucas to the archbishop’s chair, the *cathedra*, and present the shepherd’s staff, known as a crosier, a symbol of his leadership over the Archdiocese of Omaha.

Because the cathedral has a limited seating capacity for 1,000, the Mass is a private event. However, the public can watch and listen to the installation from home. EWTN, Cox channel 21, will broadcast the Mass live to more than 82 million homes in the U.S. and Canada. The Archdiocese of Omaha will also make the live Mass available through Web streaming on www.archomaha.org. Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM will also broadcast the Mass live.

Archbishop Lucas, 60, served as Bishop of Springfield in Illinois from December 14, 1999 until his installation as Archbishop of Omaha. In the years leading to his ordination as a bishop in Springfield, he served on the faculty of St. Louis Preparatory Seminary-North and St. Louis Preparatory Seminary, as the chancellor and vicar general of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis on May 24, 1975. Find more information including photos, news releases, and the crest of the archbishop at www.archomaha.org.

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Founded as a diocese in 1885, the Archdiocese of Omaha serves spiritual and human needs in a 23-county area of Northeast Nebraska. Through its 148 parishes and missions, the archdiocese reaches out to more than 221,000 Nebraska Catholics. With two Catholic universities, 58 elementary schools, 18 high schools and a parish-based religious education program within its boundaries, Catholic education enriches the lives of some 44,000 young people. The Archdiocese of Omaha is one of the largest private social service providers in the region. Catholic Charities and the Office of Family Life lead a network that ministers to the broadest and most fundamental needs of our community. Generous support to the Annual Appeal is symbolic of the collective faith that allows the Archdiocese of Omaha to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. www.archomaha.org