

# NEWS RELEASE



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**Pope Benedict XVI names Bishop George J. Lucas new Archbishop of Omaha**  
Archbishop Elden Curtiss to introduce Archbishop-Designate today

June 3, 2009 (OMAHA, NE) – Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Elden Curtiss and named Bishop George Joseph Lucas, 59, of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois as the new Archbishop of Omaha.

Archbishop Elden Curtiss will introduce his successor at a 10 a.m. news conference. The conference will be held at the Cathedral Cultural Center, 3900 Webster Ave. Members of the media should park in the east lot of St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.

Archbishop-Designate Lucas will lead more than 221,000 Nebraska Catholics in an archdiocese long known for its generous support of Catholic schools and community outreach. The Archdiocese of Omaha boasts 148 parishes and missions and 76 primary and secondary schools. Archbishop Curtiss has been appointed apostolic administrator and will act in that capacity until the installation. It has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on July 22, 2009 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, the seat of the Archbishop of Omaha since 1907.

Archbishop-Designate Lucas has been the leader of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for nearly ten years. He was born in Saint Louis, Missouri in 1949, the eldest son of George J. Lucas and Mary Catherine Kelly, now deceased. He has one sister and two brothers. He completed studies at Cardinal Glennon College and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis on May 24, 1975. Archbishop-Designate Lucas took advanced studies at Saint Louis University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and Master of Arts degree in history.

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 named Honorary Prelate of His Holiness in 1994.

As a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, he holds appointments on the Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, Subcommittee on the Catechism, and Task Force for the 2010 Special Assembly.

(more)

He now prepares to leave the Diocese of Springfield, which is home to 164 parishes approximately 170,000 Catholics. Like the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Diocese of Springfield values Catholic education with some 62 parochial schools. For the latest information on the upcoming installation and to watch today's announcement, visit [www.archomaha.org](http://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](http://www.archomaha.org)