



**The Installation of Archbishop George J. Lucas  
Appointed June 3, 2009, Installed July 22, 2009**

**How did Pope Benedict XVI choose the archbishop?**

There is no set path to being appointed bishop or archbishop. There are a number of ways in which a candidate can be considered by the Holy Father. Every three years, the bishops within a province compile a secret list of possible successors. Individual bishops and archbishops are also free to submit the names of worthy candidates. The Papal Nuncio in Washington D.C., Archbishop Pietro Sambi, plays an important role in the process. Before forwarding recommendations to the Holy Father, the office may solicit additional names and opinions from a body of local priests called the College of Consultors in the local diocese. The laity within the archdiocese may also be consulted. After review and consultation with the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), his office typically delivers the names of three suitable candidates to the Congregation of Bishops at the Vatican.

**What is the significance of the installation ceremony?**

Under canon law, the archbishop-designate officially takes possession of the archdiocese during the Mass of Installation. During the liturgy, he presents his Apostolic letter of appointment from Pope Benedict XVI, known as a “papal bull,” in the presence of invited guests, clergy, the College of Consultors and the chancellor of the archdiocese. It gets its name from the seal, or *bull*, that is appended to the end of the document to authenticate it.

**Why is the installation held in the Cathedral?**

Since 1907, St. Cecilia’s Cathedral has been the seat of the Archbishop of Omaha and the spiritual center of the archdiocese. It is fitting that the “mother church” of the archdiocese, offering a symbolic welcome to people of all faiths and cultures, be the setting for the installation.

**What is the role of Archbishop Curtiss after the installation?**

As archbishop emeritus, Archbishop Curtiss plans an active retirement here in the Archdiocese of Omaha. He will support his successor and plans a continued pastoral role within the archdiocese. He looks forward to celebrating confirmations and hopes to spend time writing, giving retreats and offering spiritual direction.