

Bishop Raymundo J. Peña's statement of welcome to Bishop Daniel Flores

December 9, 2009

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, thank you for being here to report this historic moment in the Diocese of Brownsville to the people of the Valley, and for your continued service to the diocese over the years.

With great joy, I am pleased to advise you that, today, Pope Benedict XVI has accepted my resignation as Bishop of Brownsville, and appointed Bishop Daniel Flores, formerly Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, to serve as the Sixth Bishop of Brownsville. In accepting my resignation, the Holy Father asked me to serve as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese until Bishop Flores assumes the responsibility of Bishop of Brownsville," on February 2, 2010. In effect, I will continue to serve as your bishop with all the rights, duties and responsibilities of a diocesan bishop, until that date.

I am grateful to God for all that we have been able to do to build up His Kingdom in the Rio Grande Valley for almost fifteen years. I thank you, the priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, as well as the staffs in our offices and various ministries and the people of God in the Valley for your cooperation and support.

I am overjoyed with the choice that Pope Benedict has made. Bishop Flores is a native Texan; he grew up in the Diocese of Corpus Christi and lived in McAllen when the Valley was still part of that diocese. While serving as a priest in that particular church, he earned a doctoral degree in Sacred Theology from St. Thomas University, in Rome. In Michigan, the Archbishop entrusted to him the pastoral care of the Hispanic parishioners; as such, he has served many Valleyites who had traveled north as migrant workers and settled in that State. He is a capable leader and a good friend.

With me, please welcome our Bishop to his new home in the Valley, Bishop Daniel Flores.