



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 19, 2011

**STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF ARCHBISHOP CHARLES
CHAPUT AS ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA**

By Archbishop José H. Gomez

Archbishop of Los Angeles

I am delighted that Pope Benedict XVI has chosen Archbishop Charles Chaput to be the next Archbishop of Philadelphia. I especially wish to offer my personal congratulations to Archbishop Chaput, who has been a great friend and mentor to me, from the time I served as his auxiliary bishop in Denver (2001-2004), to now, in my ministry as Archbishop of Los Angeles.

The people of Philadelphia will soon discover that they have been blessed with a new shepherd who is a man of profound faith and extraordinary pastoral sensitivity. As Archbishop of Denver, Archbishop Chaput worked with missionary zeal – even making use of social media -- to spread the Good News of Christ's love to all corners of his archdiocese. He also established programs and initiatives to deepen prayer life and increase knowledge of Catholic teaching among the faithful.

On behalf of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, I offer Archbishop Chaput our prayers and support as he begins his new ministry as the Archbishop of Philadelphia.

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