



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

October 7, 2009

Pope Benedict XVI Names New Bishop for Diocese of Gaylord

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has named the Reverend Monsignor Bernard A. Hebda, Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts at the Vatican, as the new Bishop for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gaylord. Bishop-elect Hebda, 50, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will become the fourth bishop of Gaylord succeeding Bishop Patrick R. Cooney who has led the diocese for the past 20 years. The announcement was made today by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, in Washington, D.C.

Statement from Bishop Walter A. Hurley regarding the appointment of Reverend Monsignor Bernard A. Hebda as Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Gaylord:

“In my own name and on behalf of the people of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, I offer congratulations and best wishes to the new bishop of Gaylord, Bishop-elect Bernard A. Hebda. Bishop-elect Hebda’s varied and rich experience in priestly ministry suits him well for the service of the people of the Diocese of Gaylord as their bishop.

I also extend good wishes and gratitude to Bishop Patrick Cooney for his friendship and faithful ministry to the Diocese of Gaylord over these many years.”