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NEWS RELEASE

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POPE APPOINTS FOURTH BISHOP OF ALLENTOWN

The Vatican announced today that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has named Monsignor John O. Barres, STD, JCL, Chancellor of the Diocese of Wilmington, to be the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown succeeding Bishop Edward Cullen. Bishop Cullen, 76, submitted his resignation to the pope, as required under church law, when he turned 75 in March 2008.

Bishop-elect Barres was born on September 20, 1960 and is a native of Larchmont, New York. His parents, Oliver (a native of Bethlehem, PA) and Marjorie Barres, are convert Protestant ministers who met each other at the Yale Divinity School and entered the Catholic Church in 1955. The story of their conversion is told in Oliver Barres' book *One Shepherd, One Flock*, which was published by Sheed and Ward in 1955 and again in 2000 by Catholic Answers (with forewords by Avery Cardinal Dulles and Fr. Benedict Groeschel). Bishop-elect Barres is the fifth of six children and has seven nephews and four nieces.

Bishop-elect Barres is a graduate of Phillips Academy (Andover), Princeton University (BA in English Literature), and the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration (MBA in Management). His theological education includes an STB and an STL in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of America (where he received seminary formation at Theological College) and a JCL in Canon Law and an STD in Spiritual theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. His 1999 doctoral dissertation is entitled *Jean-Jacques Olier's Priestly Spirituality: Mental Prayer and Virtue as the Foundation for the Direction of Souls*.

Bishop-elect Barres was baptized by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in 1960 while his father was working for the Bishop at the Propagation of the Faith in New York City. He was ordained to the priesthood October 21, 1989 by Bishop Robert Mulvee (Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Providence). He served as an

associate pastor at Holy Family Church in Newark, DE (1989-1992) and St. Elizabeth's parish in Wilmington, DE (1992-1996). After further study in Rome (1996-1999) with residence at the Pontifical North American College (Casa Santa Maria), he served as Vice-Chancellor (1999-2000) and then Chancellor (2000-present) for Bishop Michael Saltarelli and then Bishop W. Francis Malooly.

Pope John Paul II named him a "Chaplain to His Holiness" in July 2000 with the title of "Monsignor." Pope Benedict XVI named him a "Prelate of Honor" in November 2005. In addition to serving on various diocesan boards and committees, Bishop-elect Barres has served on the Administrative Board of the Maryland Catholic Conference (Annapolis, MD), the Board of St. Francis Hospital (Wilmington, Delaware), and the Board of the Cathedral Foundation (Baltimore, MD).

Bishop-elect Barres' Mass of Episcopal Ordination and Installation will be on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown.

Bishop-elect Barres and Bishop Cullen will hold a news conference at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena at 11 o'clock this morning.