

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 10, 2010**

**PASTOR'S CORNER
REFLECTIONS ON ARCHBISHOP LISTECKI'S INSTALLATION**

This past week I had the honor of being a chaplain for Cardinal Edmond Szoka at Archbishop ListECKI's installation liturgy. He was born on September 14, 1927 and as an American prelate of the Church is currently President Emeritus of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and President Emeritus of the Governatorate of the Vatican. He had been the bishop of Gaylord and the Archbishop of Detroit until he was called to Rome to help with finances and computerization. He's been a cardinal since 1988. It was a privilege to meet him and chat with him for 20 minutes or so as we were waiting for the ceremony to begin. He presents what is best about our hierarchy. As he so humbly put it, —Once you turn 80 in Rome, you're through. He now lives outside of Detroit and yet still goes back to Rome regularly. He has enthusiasm and love for the Church he's given his life to. He was close friends with Pope John Paul II and frequently dined with him, especially on Christmas and Easter. Someone asked me how I was chosen to be his chaplain for the installation, and I told him what I was told. —We needed someone who scrubs up good and is thin enough to walk three abreast down the aisle. I was flattered, of course.

More seriously, however, the event was very moving for me. It was a true representation of Church in so many ways. It is seldom here in Milwaukee that we gather cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay for a liturgy. I could see on the face of Archbishop ListECKI how seriously he was taking his new appointment. I would say I saw a sense of confidence in him and at the same time a sense of awe.

The liturgy, of course, was beautifully done. The music, vestments, ministries, and décor were exceptional; but more than that, it was a prayerful experience for the Church of Milwaukee and for the whole Archdiocese. How great was it that the local TV stations gave us so much coverage? Positive coverage. We certainly do get our share of criticism and challenge in the media, but here the Church of Milwaukee was presented at one its finest moments. We can all be proud to be Catholics.

As we all know after the big event in our lives, after the party, after all the well wishers have said their congratulations, whether it is for a graduation, a wedding, a solemn profession of vows, an ordination, an anniversary, or an installation, we soon get back to the day to day activities that make up our lives. That will be true for our new Archbishop too. Now he has a great responsibility to shepherd the 650,000 of us who call ourselves Catholics in this Archdiocese, and he will be a busy man. It's no small matter that we remember him by name at every single Mass celebrated in this Archdiocese. I wish him all the best and God's abundant blessings.

Peace,

Fr. Ken Knippel