

## Bishop Etienne:

# Feels called to beautiful part of God's country

*The following are the announcement remarks made by Bishop-Elect Paul D. Etienne at a press conference in Cheyenne, Oct. 19.*

Good Morning! As the newly appointed Bishop of Cheyenne, my heart is filled with gratitude, excitement, and many other emotions.

First of all, I wish to thank our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI for this honor, and I promise to serve the people of this beautiful Diocese as faithfully as I can. I wish to thank Father Michael Carr for his service as administrator in the absence of a Bishop these past fourteen months. He is probably the happiest person today with regards to this announcement!

I also wish to thank the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, especially my brother priests, and the people who have allowed me to serve them these past 17 years as a priest.

Most especially, I thank my parents and my family. These are the people who have formed me into the man and priest before you today.

In many ways, today I feel like the first apostles called by Jesus. I was supposed to begin a vacation today Wall-eye fishing with a dear priest friend in Minnesota.

But instead, Jesus has stepped into the boat of my soul and said: "Put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch." As the rich young man in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus has once again asked me to leave all behind, and follow Him.

So, from the gently, rolling hills of Southern Indiana, he has called me to this beautiful, rugged mountain region of Wyoming. From the many farm fields of home, he has called me to the ranching region of the Great Plains.

It is to this beautiful part of God's Kingdom the Lord now calls me to



Bishop-elect Paul D. Etienne smiles during the homily at his first Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Mass was held the same day as the announcement of his appointment to the Diocese of Cheyenne by Pope Benedict XVI, Oct. 19. Photo Courtesy Wyoming Tribune-Eagle.

be a fisher of men, women and children. And as the first apostles caught so many fish that it filled two boats to the point of sinking, I pray He will now bless the labors of the people of this Diocese. May He grant new life and renewal of love, and a great increase to all we do in His name.

I look forward to preaching the Gospel in this local Church of

Cheyenne.

I look forward to meeting all our people; our priests, deacons and religious, our seminarians and the many men, women and children who make up the Body of Christ here.

The psalmist says: Teach me your ways (O LORD). In the words of the psalmist, I now ask the same of you, my beloved people of Cheyenne.

Teach me your ways; the ways of your local customs, your love of the outdoors, the ways of ranching, your ways of praising and serving Christ. At the same time, I humbly ask that you grant me the privilege of leading you into the ways of Peace, for the Dawn from on high, Jesus Christ, is breaking upon us anew this day. Let us walk always

in His Light – that He may teach us the Way & Truth that leads to Life Eternal.

As one sent by Christ to preach the Good News, I have chosen for my Episcopal motto, the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:15), Veritas in Caritate, Truth in Love. As Church, we believe Christ is the ultimate expression of Truth, as well as the

ultimate expression and experience of Love. As one sent by Christ, I ask for His blessing as we, the Church of Cheyenne begin this next chapter of faith together. When Christ sent His first disciples, He told them to take nothing with them for the journey. This was because He was to be their sole possession. May we rely only and always upon Christ.