

# The Florida Catholic

Pensacola-Tallahassee Edition front page story

## Bishop-designate Holley comes home

By Peggy DeKeyser, Pensacola

Balloons and banners, applause and hugs, smiles and tears awaited Bishop-designate Martin D. Holley on his return from Washington to Pensacola on May 19.

Bishop-designate Holley, named as the new auxiliary to the Archdiocese of Washington on May 18 by Pope John Paul II, was met at the Pensacola Regional Airport by a large crowd of family, friends, parishioners and well-wishers.

In a press conference at the airport, Bishop designate Holley took his first hometown opportunity since the announcement of his episcopacy to thank the many people who had played a significant role in his life and ministry.

Bishop-designate Holley first thanked Pope John Paul II for appointing him to serve the Archdiocese of Washington under the leadership of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Bishop Holley will serve with the archdiocese's other two auxiliary bishops, Bishop Kevin Farrell and Bishop Francisco Gonzalez. The retirement of Bishop Leonard Olivier, SVD, of the archdiocese, was also announced on May 18.

Bishop-designate Holley next spoke to Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, who had introduced him to the media at the press conference. "Thank you, Bishop Ricard, for all your prayers and assistance in helping me before the announcement, now, and in the days, weeks, and months ahead." Bishop-designate Holley referred to Bishop Ricard as a "gentle, guiding advocate, whose advice and friendship are most welcome."



TFC PHOTOS BY PEGGY DEKEYSER

**Bishop-designate Martin D. Holley gets hugs and congratulations from Angela, Carolyn and Mary, three of his five sisters who were present at Pensacola Regional Airport to welcome him home from Washington, D.C.**

Bishop-designate Holley recognized Msgr. Michael Mooney, pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, saying that Msgr. Mooney had known him during his formative years when he was student at St. Joseph's and Msgr. Mooney was a teacher. The bishop-designate thanked Msgr. Mooney for his leadership and guidance throughout his ministry.

Diocesan chancellor Msgr. Michael Reed received Bishop-designate Holley's thanks in advance for "all that you will do behind the scenes to make this transition a smooth one." Teena Easter, executive secretary to Bishop Ricard, was thanked for transporting Bishop-designate Holley to the airport for his trip to Washington. She and her husband, Hal, have been close friends of the new bishop-designate since his days in the diocesan purchasing office, before he entered the seminary.

Bishop-designate Holley praised his brother priests in the diocese, saying, "You are good, holy, hardworking men, who love Jesus and his people." The new bishop-designate also had kind words for the religious sisters, brothers, deacons, seminarians and lay ministers throughout the diocese. "Thank you for your love, prayers and support over the years. Your ministerial and pastoral presence will be needed for many years to come."

The staff and parishioners of Little Flower parish and school received special recognition. Bishop-designate Holley thanked them for their love, generosity and friendship, saying that he will miss the people of the parish.

Bishop-designate Holley's voice quavered as he thanked his family, many of whom were present to greet him at the airport. "My dearest family — for all your love and prayers, all the time, thank you. We'll have some big long-distance phone bills and some great visits back and forth."

Special recognition was paid to Msgr. Slade Crawford, who has been a friend of the bishop-designate for years, and is the director of vocations for the diocese. Bishop-designate Holley asked God to bless Msgr. Crawford in his work with seminarians. "Twenty seminarians and counting! Keep up the good work!"

Bishop-designate Holley, in responding to a question from the press, credited his parents, Sylvester and Mary



TFC PHOTOS BY PEGGY DEKEYSER

**Bishop-designate Holley baptizes an infant on Easter at Little Flower Parish in Pensacola.**

Elizabeth Holley, both now deceased, with the foundation from which his vocation sprang. Referring to the family as the domestic church, he said, "That's where it all begins, in the home, with the family, as parents raise their children to live by Gospel values."

Bishop-designate Holley's ordination will be July 2 at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue W., Washington, D.C.

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