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For Immediate Release

Pope Francis names Bishop Donald J. Hying as new Bishop of Madison

Merrillville, Ind.—Pope Francis today named Most Reverend Donald J. Hying as the fifth Bishop of Madison, Wisconsin. Bishop Hying is currently the Bishop of Gary, and will succeed the late Most Rev. Robert C. Molino, who served as Madison’s bishop from August 1, 2003, to his death on November 24, 2018.

“I am grateful and energized by this appointment made by Pope Francis to serve the Diocese of Madison and to minister to the People of God in south-central and southwestern Wisconsin,” said Bishop Donald Hying.

“My father was originally from this beautiful part of Wisconsin as part of a hardworking, farming family in Iowa and Grant Counties. Many of my relatives live here. I look forward to being part of this rich history of Catholic faith and continuing to sow the seeds of faith in this local Church as we continue to reap the bountiful harvest of my predecessor, especially by deepening our common call to missionary discipleship and to nurturing priestly vocations.”

The Bishop also addressed his dear friends in Christ within the Diocese of Gary:

“In the four short years I have had the privilege to serve as your bishop, it has been a great joy to encounter many of you in my visits to our parishes and schools and to accompany you as we experienced the outpouring of Holy Spirit’s presence during our diocesan Synod process. I have already witnessed the first fruits of this historic event and pray that the Spirit will continue to strengthen the Faith at all levels—individuals, families, parishes and the entire Diocese of Gary.”

“When I was first informed that Pope Francis had appointed me the fifth Bishop of Madison, I felt a particular regret knowing that I will no longer share in the continued renewal that is taking place and thinking about all the wonderful people I will miss. Yet I surrender it all to Our Lord knowing that all the hard work, prayers and sacrifice will continue to be boldly carried on by the priests, religious and laity who make up this local Church of Northwest Indiana.”

“Please know of my heartfelt prayers for all of you and I ask for your prayers as I begin anew in southwestern Wisconsin!”

Bishop Hying was born August 18, 1963, in West Allis, Wisconsin, to Albert and Catherine Hying. He is the youngest of six sons and attended St. Aloysius and Immaculate Heart of Mary grade schools, Brookfield Central High School and Marquette University. He earned his Masters of Divinity from St. Francis de Sales Seminary. Bishop Hying also completed his classwork in the Doctor of Ministry program at the University of St. Mary of the Lake—Mundelein Seminary.

Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on May 20, 1989, his first priestly assignment was as associate pastor for St. Anthony Parish, Menomonee Falls, from 1989 to 1994. Father Hying then served as a Team Member for La Sagrada Familia Parroquia, Dominican Republic from 1994 to 1997. He returned to the United States in 1998 and served as temporary administrator of St. Peter Parish, then as associate pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Milwaukee, from 1998 to 1999. He was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Milwaukee from 1999 to 2005.

From 2005 to 2007, Father Hying served as the Dean of Formation at St. Francis de Sales Seminary. He also served as temporary administrator of St. Augustine Parish, Milwaukee in 2006. He was appointed as rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary by then-Archbishop Timothy Michael Dolan from 2007 until 2011.

On May 26, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Hying titular bishop of Regiae and Auxiliary Bishop of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He was consecrated on July 20, 2011.

On November 24, 2014, Pope Francis named Bishop Hying as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, to succeed Most Rev. Dale J. Melczek, who had submitted his resignation as required when he reached the age of 75. Hying's installation at the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary took place on January 6, 2015.

Founded in 1945, the Diocese of Madison is home to over 288,000 Catholics who worship in 102 parishes located across eleven counties of southwest corner of Wisconsin. The area of the diocese is approximately 8,070 square miles and is served by almost 100 active priests. Its 44 grade schools, two high schools and one college educates over 7,200 students. The diocese contains several Catholic hospitals, health clinics and nursing homes, and direct service to the poor is provided in many places by Catholic Charities of Madison and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.