

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, announced today, Tuesday, January 30, 2007, at noon in Rome (6:00 a.m. EST) that the Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown. Bishop Murry is currently Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

Upon his appointment, Bishop Murry stated: "I am honored to accept the Holy Father's appointment to serve as Bishop of Youngstown and I look forward to meeting and working with the priests, deacons, religious and laity of the diocese." Bishop Murry will be installed as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown on Wednesday, March 28, 2007.

Bishop Murry was born in Camden, New Jersey, in 1948. After graduating from Catholic elementary and high school, he attended St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. In 1972 he entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and was ordained to the priesthood in 1979. Bishop Murry holds a M.Div. degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California, as well as an M. Phil. and Ph.D. in American Cultural History from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Murry has served as a professor of American Cultural History at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., President of Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Detroit. In 1995 Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. In May of 1998 Pope John Paul II appointed him Coadjutor Bishop of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and on June 30, 1999, appointed him bishop of the diocese.

Bishop Murry has served on numerous boards including the University of Detroit and Loyola Academy, both in Detroit; St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburgh, Maryland and Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and serves on the Domestic Policy and Education Committees. Since November of 2002 he also serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, the overseas arm of the U.S. Bishops, which provides food, clothing, shelter and medicine for those in need.

Presently, Bishop Murry is preparing a book on the role of the American Church in the reception and resettlement of refugees from 1939 until 1980.

Editors: A press conference will be held today, January 30, at 10:00 a.m., to introduce Bishop Murry. The press conference will be held in the Diocesan Conference Room at the Chancery Office, 225 Elm Street, Youngstown.