WELCOME HOME!

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歡迎

ARCHBISHOP WENSKI
Events will bring new archbishop to your area

Installation Mass is filled, but Archbishop Thomas Wenski will be visiting south Florida parishes in June

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — For everyone who wants to welcome Archbishop Thomas Wenski back home to Miami, here's the good news: He will be coming to visit you in June.

A series of welcome Masses has been planned in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties where the thousands of people who do not fit into St. Mary Cathedral for the installation ceremony will be able to pray with, meet and greet the new archbishop.

People also can watch the installation Mass live on their computers by logging onto the archdiocesan website, www.miamiarch.org, at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1. Or they can tune into EWTN, which will broadcast it live in both English and Spanish; CatholicTV, which will broadcast it in English; and Radio Paz 830 AM, which will air it in Spanish.

After June 1, however, Archbishop Wenski will begin a whirlwind tour of the archdiocese, celebrating Masses at each of the three counties in order to reach out to all Catholics.

Some Masses will be mostly in English, others mostly in Spanish, others mostly in Creole. But all will include a smattering of the three languages spoken in the archdiocese and by the new archbishop; and the Mass at St. Clement will resemble the annual Migration Mass celebrated each year on the feast of the Epiphany, with all the cultural groups invited to come in their native garb.

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A knock, a papal bull and a chair

A guide to what will happen during Archbishop Wenski’s installation ceremony

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — A knock, a papal bull, and a chair: Those are the ingredients of an archbishop’s installation.

The chair is the reason why the ceremony takes place at the cathedral, explained Msgr. Terence Hogan, rector of St. Mary Cathedral, and director of the archdiocese’s Office of Worship.

“In its role as the ‘mother church’ of the archdiocese, (the cathedral) is the site of the archbishop’s cathedra or chair. The cathedra serves as a sign of unity for the faithful and reflects the archbishop’s teaching office as well as his pastoral authority. It is from this chair that he leads prayer, proclaims the faith, and gathers his priests around him to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments,” Msgr. Hogan said.

When he is installed as Miami’s fourth shepherd June 1, Archbishop Thomas Wenski will begin by knocking on the great oak doors of St. Mary Cathedral. When the doors open, “he will be welcomed, presented with a crucifix to venerate and given holy water to sprinkle upon all who have gathered within the cathedral,” Msgr. Hogan said.

Archbishop Wenski will be accompanied by Archbishop John C. Favalora. They both will pro-

WHY IS IT CALLED
A PAPAL BULL?

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia:

“A bulla was originally a circular plate or boss of metal, so called from its resemblance in form to a bubble floating upon water (from the Latin bullire, to boil). In the course of time, the term came to be applied to the leaden seals with which papal and royal documents were authenticated in the early Middle Ages, and by a further development, the name, from designating the seal, was eventually attached to the document itself. … For practical purposes a bull may be conveniently defined to be ‘an apostolic letter with a leaden seal,’ to which one may add that in its super-

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Sign of unity

The site of Archbishop Thomas Wenski’s installation: St. Mary Cathedral.

Barry University offers Archbishop Thomas Wenski, DD our prayerful support on his return to South Florida as Archbishop of Miami.
‘To witness that God matters’

Archbishop Wenski previews his ‘platform’ for Miami

This is Archbishop Thomas Wenski’s final column for the Orlando edition of the Florida Catholic newspaper. Not merely a look back at his tenure as bishop of Orlando, the column serves as a preview of what Archbishop Wenski calls his “platform” in south Florida.

Recently I reread the homily I delivered at the Mass that welcomed me as the Coadjutor Bishop of Orlando on Aug. 22, 2003. At that time, I attempted to articulate the vision that would guide me when I would become your bishop upon Bishop Norbert Dorsey’s retirement.

On Nov. 13, 2004, I did become the fourth bishop of Orlando — and we have been busy ever since. Together, we “started afresh from Christ” with our first Diocesan Synod with its themes of Communication, Conversion, Solidarity and Stewardship. Together we celebrated the diocese’s 40th anniversary with our Festival of Faith and Stewardship. Together we welcomed many new priests and seminarians to serve our people. Together we sought to be “Witnesses to Hope” and “Alive in Christ” with the first diocesanwide capital campaign despite a challenging economic environment. Together we grew — into more parishes and missions and, thankfully, to a time when I became the chief shepherd of some 1.3 million Catholics in the three counties that make up the Archdiocese of Miami.

For this reason, Catholics should involve themselves in the public square — and do so coherently and unapologetically. This is not to “impose our views” but to “make our proposal” about what is necessary for human flourishing in society.

While this understanding expressed in the Church’s social teachings can seem to be quite complex, I believe it can be summarized in one simple phrase: No man is a problem. This why as Archbishop of Miami I will continue to proclaim — as I hope I did as Bishop of Orlando — a positive and consistent ethic of life.

No human being can be reduced to just a problem. When we allow ourselves to think of a human being as a mere problem, we offend his or her dignity. And, when we see another human being as a problem, we often give ourselves permission to look for expedient but not just solutions. The tragic history of the 20th century shows that thinking like this even leads to “final solutions.”

For us, Catholics, therefore, there is no such thing as a “problem pregnancy” — only a child who is to be welcomed in life and protected by law. The refugee, the migrant — even one without “papers” — is not a problem. He may perhaps be a stranger, but a stranger to be embraced as a brother. Even criminals — for all the horror of their crimes — do not lose their God-given dignity as human beings. They, too, must be treated with respect, even in their punishment. This is why Catholic social teaching condemns torture and advocates for the abolition of the death penalty.

I am told that south Florida has its challenges — but, then, what else is new? At any rate, I pray that the lessons I learned here as the Bishop of Orlando will stand me in good stead as I assume the responsibilities that await me come June 1 when I become the chief shepherd of some 1.3 million Catholics in the three counties that make up the Archdiocese.

I will carry with me many memories of this dynamic and vibrant local Church. And, though words fail me, I can only offer my thanks to all of you. I pray that you will remember me as fondly as I will remember you — and that we will never cease to pray for one another.

For this reason, Catholics should involve themselves in the public square — and do so coherently and unapologetically. This is not to “impose our views” but to “make our proposal” about what is necessary for human flourishing in society.
Archbishop
Thomas G. Wenski

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes on your installation.

May the Archdiocese of Miami grow in faith & love with your spiritual guidance.

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WELCOME

The Archbishop McCarthy Community of Faith WELCOMES
Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski.
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Pallium symbolizes authority, unity with pope

Welcome home, Archbishop Thomas Wenski,
St John Vianney Seminary Class of 1968
St Vincent de Paul Seminary Class of 1976
BENEDICAT TE DEUS

Father William Elbert and Parishioners of
St Lawrence Church, North Miami Beach

tradition of distributing the pallium on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, which always falls on June 29, to emphasize the unity of bishops around the world with the successor of St. Peter. The use of the pallium is reserved to the pope and archbishops. Worn by the pope, the pallium symbolizes the plenitude of pontifical office; worn by archbishops, it typifies their participation in the supreme pastoral power of the pope, who concedes it to them for their proper Church provinces.

The pallium is a circular band about two inches wide, worn about the neck, breast, and shoulders, and having two pendants, one hanging down in front and one behind. The pendants are about 2 inches wide and 12 inches long, and are weighted with small pieces of lead covered with black silk.

The remainder of the pallium is made of white wool, part of which is supplied by two lambs presented annually on the feast of St. Agnes, solemnly blessed, and then offered to the pope.

The ornamentation of the pallium consists of six small black crosses — one each on the breast and back, one on each shoulder, and one on each pendant. The crosses on the breast, back and left shoulder are provided with a loop for the reception of a gold pin set with a precious stone. The pallium is worn over the chasuble.

Admission to the pallium ceremony at St. Peter’s is by ticket only. For those traveling to Rome by themselves, and not part of the official Archdiocese of Miami pilgrimage, the address to request tickets for the pallium Mass is:

Bishops’ Office for United States Visitors to the Vatican
C/o Rev. Msgr. Roger Roensch
Via dell’Umiltà, 30
00187 Rome, Italy
Europe

The request should be sent via fax and include the person’s name, parish, and the names of other persons in the party requesting tickets. They can be picked up on Monday afternoon, June 28, at the same address.

The fax number (from the US) is (011)39-06-679-1448. The telephone number (from the US) is (011)39-06-690011.

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Archbishop Piero Marini is pictured in the above photo adjusting the pallium of Pope Benedict XVI during the pope’s installation Mass April 24, 2005. The top photo is of a pallium presented to archbishops.
Archbishop Thomas Wenski: By the numbers

**12** — Number of years he spent in the seminary (he entered in ninth grade).

**15** — Number of missions he and other Haitian priests cared for pastorally, from Homestead to Fort Pierce and Immokalee to Fort Lauderdale, during his 18 years with the Haitian apostolate in Miami.

**4** — Number of missions he established as bishop of Orlando.

**7** — Number of parishes he has established in Orlando.

**9** — Number of priests he has ordained in Orlando.

**2** — Number of churches elevated to the status of basilicas during his tenure in Orlando (St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Daytona Beach and the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe).

**25** — Number of seminarians currently studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Orlando.

**2** — Number of motorcycles he has owned (first a Honda and now a Harley).

**300** — Or a little bit less: Number of hours he has logged piloting a Cessna.

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Archbishop Wenski as you begin your service to Miami...

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Congratulations and Welcome!

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski

On this joyous occasion, we pray that as you begin your service to the Church in the Archdiocese of Miami, the Holy Spirit will guide you and grant you wisdom in your apostolic ministry.

Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki, Bishop Richard J. Sklba, Bishop William Patrick Callahan and the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Welcome home, Archbishop Wenski

He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in God’s house.”

Hebrews 3:2

Welcome home, Archbishop Wenski

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FREE lunch/tour call or send completed form below.

INSTALLATION: The ceremony will be televised live on EWTN, CatholicTV and the archdiocesan website

FROM A3

ceed to the cathedral’s Blessed Sacrament Chapel, where they will spend a moment in prayer. Then they will move to the sanctuary for the beginning of Mass. After the greeting, the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, will read out loud the apostolic letter — also known as papal bull — by which Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Archbishop Wenski as archbishop of Miami. Msgr. Michael Souckar, the archdiocesan chancellor, will take the letter and show it to the college of consultants, a group of priests who advise the archbishop on the governing of the archdiocese.

Immediately after that, the nuncio and Archbishop Favara will take Archbishop Wenski to the cathedral, or chair, and hand him the crozier, or bishop’s staff.

At that moment, with that simple gesture, Msgr. Souckar said, Archbishop Wenski will officially assume his duties as chief shepherd of Miami’s 1.3 million Catholics and metropolitan of the Province of Miami, which includes the seven dioceses of Florida.

After that, “The Ceremonial of Bishop Wenski” for representatives of the archdiocesan clergy and members of the faithful to formally greet “and offer some sign of obedience and reverence” to their new archbishop. The Mass then continues as usual, beginning with the “Gloria.”

Archbishop Wenski’s installation ceremony will be televised live on EWTN in English and Spanish, and can be viewed as well on CatholicTV and on the Internet at www.miamiarch.org, the archdiocesan website.

Admission to the cathedral June 1 is by ticket only, but the large number of bishops, priests and dignitaries expected leaves none available for the general public.

“Not only because of the historical importance of these ceremonies, but also because of the significance of the archdiocese within the Americas and the Caribbean, especially Haiti and Cuba, we are expecting a large number of bishops and priests, perhaps as many as 400,” Msgr. Hogan said.

The cathedral can squeeze in around 1,250. The choir alone, composed of choir members and music directors from parishes throughout the archdiocese, numbers 60, not including members of a Polish choir who — in recognition of Archbishop Wenski’s heritage — will sing at the ceremony.

“Since the space is limited, the seating has been designated for members of his family, those associated with Archbishop Wenski during his many years of ministry, and then there will be representatives from each parish and the various other ministries from the archdiocese,” Msgr. Hogan said.

“Realizing that there will be limited seating,” he added, “it was Archbishop Wenski’s request that during the weeks following the installation Mass there would be opportunities for the faithful of the archdiocese to celebrate the Eucharist with him and share some private moments with him at receptions following the welcome Masses.”

The dates and times of those Masses can be found on Page A2 of this special edition. They also are posted on the home page of the archdiocesan website, www.miamiarch.org.

For more information: 1-800-777-3921
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ARCHBISHOP THOMAS WENSKI:
‘I leave Orlando with mixed feelings’

TANYA GOODMAN
of the Florida Catholic staff

ORLANDO — The Chancery lobby downtown swarmed with media. Chancery staff members packed behind them anxiously waiting to hear firsthand that their leader — the leader of central Florida Catholics — was leaving to head the Archdiocese of Miami.

As soon as Archbishop Thomas Wenski entered the lobby, Chancery employees erupted in applause — recognition of the honor of his appointment.

Archbishop Wenski, 59, acknowledged he will leave the Diocese of Orlando, where he was first coadjutor bishop and then bishop for nearly seven years, to serve as the fourth archbishop of Miami and metropolitan of the Province of Miami which includes all seven dioceses of Florida.

Archbishop John C. Favalora, 74, is retiring after 16 years of service.

“I leave Orlando with mixed feelings. I have come to love the people, the priests, religious and deacons,” Archbishop Wenski said.

On April 20 at noon in Rome (6 a.m. Eastern time), Pope Benedict XVI announced that he had named Bishop Wenski as archbishop of Miami. Immediately, newspapers and agencies around the world published the news and photos. There is one photo, in particular, that was very popular: Archbishop Wenski wearing jeans and a helmet, sitting on his motorcycle.

At the press conference, Archbishop Wenski noted with a smile that central Florida has “great back roads for motorcycle riding. In Miami, it’s a little more congested.”

“I will miss his humor,” said Hyun Peterson, director of archives for the diocese.

Many employees expressed their happiness at his appointment of archbishop, but expressed sadness to see him leave.

Yvette Hernandez of the Office of Hispanic Ministry said, “We are losing but someone else is winning. He’s doing such a good job. It is sad for us but good for others.”

Hernandez added that sometimes people get attached to a particular priest. She noted it is the job of a priest to minister to many people. “We have to let him go,” she said.

TO STAY OR GO

Archbishop Wenski said he had a “mixed reaction” when the papal nuncio first called him about becoming archbishop of Miami.

“My first inclination was to stay put.” With twinkling eyes and a
smile in his voice, the new archbishop elicited laughter, adding, "It is hard to say no to the pope." Continuing, a bit more serious, he said, "When I became a priest, I promised obedience to my bishop."

CHALLENGES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Media throughout the state proclaimed "native son returns home." Archbishop Wenski grew up in Lake Worth and was ordained a priest in the Miami Archdiocese in 1976. He was appointed auxiliary bishop there in 1997. He knows Miami's flora and fauna and archdiocese well.

The Miami Archdiocese serves three counties and about 1.3 million Catholics. During his time there, Archbishop Wenski moved well in the multicultural Miami area, speaking Haitian Creole and Spanish. Many welcome him "home," but pastoral and financial challenges await. He leaves Orlando, however, from a position of strength.

At the press conference he was asked about his proudest accomplishment. Archbishop Wenski said when he came to Orlando, "I looked at what I should do. I looked at the job description from the Holy See." He recounted convoking a synod — strategic planning for the diocese that met over an 18-month period. To learn more of what the people needed, he held listening sessions at the parishes.

The synod recognized a need to raise funds for individual parishes and the diocese. That need was met through the Alive in Christ Capital Endowment Campaign. "We have passed $500 million in pledges and still have one-third of parishes left (to participate)," Archbishop Wenski said.

During his time as bishop of the Orlando Diocese, he also established eight parishes or missions and oversaw the designation of two minor basilicas.

"If I do a good job, it will be because of my experiences in central Florida. It will stand me in good stead when I go back to Miami," Archbishop Wenski said.

Robert Diaz of the diocesan Office of Communications told the Florida Catholic, "I will miss Archbishop Wenski. He was like a boot camp commanding officer; molding us for the future."

Archbishop Wenski acknowledged his employees and the Catholic community. "I am grateful for your support of seven years. I ask you to accompany me to Miami through your prayers," he said.

Overheard after the press conference, Cristina Caban, executive assistant to the bishop, said of Archbishop Wenski, "He's a great boss." Later, with misty eyes, she told the Florida Catholic, "No one will miss him more than me."
Welcome home Archbishop Wencki

Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D.
BISHOP OF CAMDEN

and the priests, deacons, seminarians, religious and faithful of the Diocese of Camden

Dear Archbishop Wencki,

Congratulations on your appointment to Archbishop of Miami.

We look forward to your leadership as our shepherd and welcome you on your return to Miami.

May the good Lord continue to guide and direct you in his infinite wisdom and love.

Rev. Msgr. M. J. Cassidy, Pastor
Priests, Staff and Parish Family
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Fla.

If we have the Holy Spirit, we have all.”
– St. Madeleine Sophie Barat
Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart

Since 1958, the spiritual, ecclesiastical and sacramental authority conferred to the Archbishops of the Archdiocese of Miami has been held in trust by pastoral leaders whose confidence in the Holy Spirit has borne great fruit.

We hold in our hearts
Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll
Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy
Archbishop John C. Favalora
and thank them for their support of Catholic education.

Carrollton welcomes Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski to this apostolic legacy.

Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
3747 Main Highway, Miami, Florida 33133
(305) 446-5673 • www.carrollton.org
Educating Women Leaders in South Florida Since 1961

The picture: Archbishop Wenski and Lech Walesa

Miami Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez was there (sort of) when it happened

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS G. WENSKI

You have our prayers and best wishes as you begin your episcopal ministry in the Archdiocese of Miami

Ana Rodriguez-Soto
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — It’s a picture Archbishop Thomas Wenski treasures immensely: he and Lech Walesa, both wearing the same mustache.

Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez recalls how Miami’s future archbishop came to take that photo with the leader of the Solidarity movement, friend of Pope John Paul II, future president of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Bishop Estevez first met Thomas Wenski when he joined the faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach back in 1975.

“I was his faculty his last year in the seminary,” Bishop Estevez said.

“We became friends quickly.”

He remembers how the young man who would become his future archbishop “gave me the first tour of the Archdiocese of Miami. He showed me some parishes that excelled in pastoral care. And we went together to Poland” in 1987.

They both attended Mass one morning at St. Bridget in Gdansk. After Mass, Bishop Estevez excused himself to go to the restroom.

It turns out, Walesa was in attendance at the Mass. Archbishop Wenski followed him outside and asked to take a picture.


“I thought he was joking,” Bishop Estevez recalled, noting that Archbishop Wenski “loves to joke and to laugh and to tease.”

But this time it was no joke. And Archbishop Wenski has the proof.
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

Churches elevated to basilicas under Archbishop Wenski

LAURA DODSON
Florida Catholic correspondent

DAYTONA BEACH — The elevation of a church to the designation of minor basilica — an honorific title bestowed on a church of historical or spiritual significance to the Holy See — is a major and rare privilege. Archbishop Thomas Wenski petitioned and was granted the designation for not one but two churches in the Diocese of Orlando within the brief tenure of his episcopacy.

“No bishop can claim the title of presiding over two basilicas,” declared Father Robert Webster, who is the diocesan director of liturgy and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Clermont. He was the pastor of the Basilica of St. Paul the Apostle in Daytona Beach at the time of its elevation on Jan. 25, 2006, and served as emcee for the elevation of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe on Aug. 22, 2009.

Father Webster added, “But then Bishop Wenski authorized the lengthy and extensive petition process for that to happen. He knew that there was an impetus for honoring one of the oldest churches in Florida — the Basilica of St. Paul the Apostle was honored on the occasion of the parish’s 125th anniversary, but the bishop also knew that the elevation of the national shrine

Please see BASILICAS, A26
The Clergy, Religious and Laity of
the Diocese of Venice in Florida
join me in extending
our warm welcome and prayers to

Archbishop
Thomas Wenski

Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the
Diocese of Venice in Florida
Welcome Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski
Our New Chief Shepherd
From
Father Michael Davis
and all of us at
St. Jerome in Fort Lauderdale

Congratulations, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski

God bless you as you build up the Lord's Church in Miami.
May your days there be many, fruitful and joyful.

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza
Retired Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto
and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
wish you continued blessings in your ministry.

Archbishop Wenski’s coat of arms

An explanation of what the symbols represent

Now that he is archbishop of Miami, Archbishop Thomas Wenski
has blended his coat of arms with that of the Archdiocese of Miami.
Here is an explanation of what the combined coat of arms represents.

The left side of the coat of arms represents the Archdiocese of Miami. The palm tree in gold
speaks the territory of the archdiocese, where this tree grows plentifully and luxuriously, so much
so that it is practically a symbol of this area.

On a field of blue, the hue of the sky, the tree issues from a golden fess or horizontal bar between
two silver crosses, as emblems of the Catholic faith. The base of the shield displays wavy and silver
blue bars, the heraldic equivalent of water, to signify that the See City (of the Metropolitan Province
of Florida) is encompassed by water.

The right side of the coat of arms is Archbishop Wenski’s personal heraldry. The archbishop’s
episcopal motto is “Omnia Omnibus,” which means “All things to all men.” The scriptural text is
taken from St. Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians, “I have become all things to all men, to save at least
some” (1 Cor 9:22).

His coat of arms shows a white eagle in the center, symbolic of Poland, his ethnic heritage. At
the feet of the eagle are two silver crosses originally taken from the archbishop’s home diocese of
Miami and now retained as a sign of God’s divine providence as the archbishop returns to his birth-
place and the seeds of his early ministry.

Above the eagle are three fleurs-de-lis, which are taken
from the shield of the Diocese of Orlando where he served as
bishop. These ancient symbols represent the Virgin Mary under
the three titles that have marked the archbishop’s pastoral minis-
try: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of Haitians; Our Lady of
Charity, patroness of Cubans; and the Immaculate Conception, pa-
troness of the United States. The background of the shield is blue
and red, the colors of the Haitian flag.

The entire design is surmount-
ed by the metropolitan cross and the traditional galero, or tasseled
hat, indicating the rank of arch-
bishop.
A glimpse at the life and ministry of Archbishop Thomas Wenski

1958
- Makes his first Communion at Sacred Heart Church in Lake Worth.

1961
- Becomes an altar server.

1963
- After completing eighth grade at Sacred Heart School in Lake Worth, enters St. John Vianney, then a high school seminary, in Miami; begins to learn Spanish by mingling.

1966

1968
- Attends summer courses in Polish language and culture, Catholic University, Lublin, Poland.

1973
- Graduates with a Master of Divinity from St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

1975
- Obtains Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

1977
- Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Miami by Auxiliary Bishop Coleman F. Carroll.

1979
- Named associate rector, St. Mary Cathedral.
- Travels to Haiti to learn Creole in order to minister to a growing immigrant community in Miami.

1981-1984
- Named director, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Miami; one sister, Mary Engle, resident of Lake Worth.

1984
- Receives Charles Whited Spirit of Excellence Award, presented by the Miami Herald.

1992
- Church of the Archdiocese of Miami dedicates new Mundelein Library for the priesthood.

1994
- Receives Father Moczygemba Award, presented by the Polish American Priest's Association.

1997
- Named director, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Miami; one sister, Mary Engle, resident of Lake Worth.

2001
- Established Centro Católico La Guadalupana Mission in Ocala.

2004
- Establishes St. Philip Phan Van Minh Parish for the Vietnamese community.

2005
- Establishes Centro Católico La Guadalupana Mission in Ocala.

2007
- Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine in Orlando is elevated to the status of basilica.

2010
- Named archdiocesan director: Catholic Relief Services; Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Miami; Catholic Community Services, Inc.; Catholic Social Services, Inc., the Archdiocese of Miami.

2012
- Establishes Centro Católico La Guadalupana Mission in Ocala.
What do you call it?

A glossary of Catholic terms surrounding the installation of an archbishop

The source for most of these definitions is the Catholic Encyclopedia.

Apostolic nuncio: Church term for the Vatican ambassador to another country and the papal liaison with the Church in that country. An apostolic nuncio, also called a papal nuncio, is always an archbishop. In a country with which the Vatican does not have diplomatic relations, the official Vatican liaison with the Church is called an apostolic delegate. Papal representatives in the United States were apostolic delegates until 1984, when full diplomatic relations were established.

Archbishop: An archbishop or metropolitan, in the present sense of the term, is a bishop who governs a diocese strictly his own, while he presides at the same time over the bishops of a well-defined district composed of simple dioceses but not of provinces. Hence none of these subordinate bishops rule over others. These bishops are called the suffragans. The archbishop's own diocese is the archdiocese. The several dioceses of the district form the archiepiscopal, or metropolitan, province. The title of archbishop is given automatically to bishops who govern archdioceses. It is also given to certain other high-ranking church officials, notably Vatican ambassadors, the secretaries of Vatican congregations and the presidents of pontifical councils.

Archdiocese: This term does not designate an ecclesiastical province, but only that diocese of the province which is the archbishop’s own, and over which he holds immediate and exclusive jurisdiction.

Auxiliary bishop: A bishop assigned to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese to assist its residential bishop. Whether in a diocese or archdiocese, his title is bishop.

Bishop: The highest order of ordained ministry in Catholic teaching; the title of an ecclesiastical dignitary who possesses the fullness of the priesthood to rule a diocese as its chief pastor, in due submission to the primacy of the pope.

Cathedra: The chair of a bishop in his cathedral church at which he presides at solemn functions.

Cathedral: The chief church of a diocese, in which the bishop has his chair. It is, properly speaking, the bishop’s church, wherein he presides, teaches, and conducts worship.

College of consultors: A stable body involved in the governance of a diocese. It is composed of between six and 12 priests and is presided over by the diocesan bishop. Members are chosen by the bishop from among the members of the presbyteral council. The bishop is required by canon law to consult with the college on certain matters.
St. Thomas Aquinas High School
welcomes Archbishop Thomas Wenski!

The St. Thomas Aquinas Family rejoices in the arrival of Archbishop Thomas Wenski as chief Shepherd of the Archdiocese of Miami. It is our delight to join him in the spiritual formation of the families of our area. May he have the blessings and the guidance of the Lord as he undertakes his new mission. Witamy!

2801 SW 12th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, 33312 (954) 581-0700 www.aquinas-sta.org

The Church of Jackson wishes the Church of Miami many blessings as they welcome their new shepherd, Archbishop Thomas Wenski

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to

Archbishop John C. Favalora
for his many years of dedicated, selfless service to our Catholic Church as priest, bishop and servant of God. May your retirement be blessed and spirit-filled.

+ Joseph N. Latino
Bishop of Jackson
Archbishop Thomas Wenski Welcome and Congratulate the people of the Diocese of Columbus as you begin your service to the Archdiocese of Miami.

Diocese: The territory or churches subject to the jurisdiction of a bishop.

Holy See: The primary official term of reference for the Diocese of Rome, as the chief diocese of Catholic Christendom; used to refer to the pope and the Roman Curia — congregations, tribunals, and various other offices — in their role of authority over and service to the Catholic Church around the world.

Installation: In common usage, installation usually refers to the assumption of duties by a local ordinary, generally the diocesan bishop. The technical assumption of duties by the bishop-designate basically occurs when he presents his apostolic letter of appointment to the diocesan college of consultants. One frequently sees, however, and with ample appropriateness, a more ceremonial and public liturgical celebration of that ecclesial event in the form of an “installation Mass,” which opens the pastoral administration of the new bishop.

Miter: The miter is the tall, pointed ceremonial cap worn as part of liturgical dress by a pope, bishop or abbot. It consists of two like parts, each stiffened by a lining and rising to a peak; these are sewn together on the sides, but are united above by a piece of material that can fold together. Two lappets trimmed on the ends with fringe hang down from the back.

Pallium: Special stole made of lamb’s wool worn over the chasuble by the pope and archbishops; it signifies the communion of archbishops with the Holy See. (See Page A6)

Province, ecclesiastical: An ecclesiastical administrative district under the jurisdiction of an archbishop. The seven dioceses in the state of Florida — St. Augustine, Miami, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Palm Beach and Venice — make up one province that is led by the metropolitan archbishop of Miami. The Code of Canon Law spells out certain limited obligations and authority that the metropolitan archbishop has with respect to the dioceses within his province.

Vicar general: A priest, auxiliary bishop or coadjutor bishop who assists the diocesan bishop in the governance of the entire diocese.

Zucchetto: Skullcap worn by the pope (white), bishops (purple) and cardinals (red).

SYMBOLS

From A18

Bishop Roger P. Morin, the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese of Biloxi Send prayers and congratulations to Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski on his appointment to the Archdiocese of Miami.

Bishop Frederick Campbell and the people of the Diocese of Columbus Welcome and Congratulate Archbishop Thomas Wenski as you begin your service to the Archdiocese of Miami.

Capuchin Charitable Gift Annuities

Established in 1924, the Capuchin Development Center, Province of St. Augustine, Charitable Gift Annuity Program allows you to help us continue preaching and serving the poor. In return, you receive a guaranteed fixed lifetime income that is partially tax-free. In addition, you receive an income tax deduction.

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Two-Life rates are available upon request.

For an analysis of your benefits without obligation, complete and clip the coupon below or call 1-800-224-0330.

Jerry Gaughan, Director Capuchin Development Center
1-800-224-0330 220 - 37th Street
www.capuchin.com
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Florida Catholic May 29, 2010

MIA A20
Thank you, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, for your ongoing support of the Florida Catholic during your tenure in the Diocese of Orlando.

You will remain in the daily prayers of the Florida Catholic staff when we gather in the chapel each workday.

May God’s blessings be yours as you begin your tenure as the fourth Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Miami.

May the powerful presence of Jesus Christ be with you always.

Thank you, Archbishop Wenski.
We will miss you.

Florida Catholic
Welcome Archbishop Wenski

We hope and pray that you will be a good shepherd with great courage, with spiritual insight, and a great love for all people. May all of the people of the Archdiocese be blessed with your presence.

From the people and families of St. Bernadette Parish
~Reverend Brendan Dalton

Your love and devotion to your spouse will endure an eternity.

You have made a commitment to your partner that transcends life. Honor that commitment by taking the first step and selecting your final resting place in the same way you wisely chose your path through life.

Catholic Cemeteries offer you a place of peace and prayer with majestic gardens and monuments that remind us of all that is good. Our Lady of Mercy in Miami and Our Lady Queen of Heaven in Broward are sacred places where we honor our traditions of faith and the things that made your love blossom.

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Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Miami
Honoring our traditions.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fiesta Tropical, sábado, 29 de Mayo, 8 p.m., iglesia de St. John Bosco, salón San José, 1349 W. Flagler St., Miami. Celebración de la comunidad hispana y concurso de jóvenes. Actos culturales y actividades de disfrute. 
• Sunday, June 6, 6 p.m., St. Timothy School, 5400 Linares, 305-720-3533. Summer sports and activities for kids of all ages, including football, softball and baseball. Athletic games for the community. 


Summer Institute courses, sponsored by the Department of Religious Education. Registration: $35; $45 after June 1. Information: 305-762-1100.
• Broward County: June 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, All Saints School, Sunrise, 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (I), Foundations of Catholicism (I), Intro to the Old Testament (II), Christology (III), New Testament (IV), Introduction to the Sacraments (I), Church History (IV): 2-4 p.m.: Teaching Religion Today (I), Principles of Christian Morality (III), Becoming Peacemakers (IV).
• Miami-Dade County: June 14, 16, 18, 22, St. Thomas More, Coral Gables, 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (I), Foundations of Catholicism (I), Intro to the Old Testament (II), Christology (III), Liturgy (IV), 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.: 21st Pentecost at the Sacraments (I), St. Paul’s Leadership Seminar, Church History (IV), 2-4 p.m.: Introduction to the New Testament (II), Principles of Christian Morality (III), Becoming Peacemakers (IV).

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TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) spiritual directors workshop, Monday, June 27, St. Thomas More, 1107 N.W. 18 St., Miami. Sponsored by Division of Catholic Education and Ministry. 305-759-4531.

Summer Institute courses, sponsored by the Department of Religious Education. Registration: $35; $45 after June 1.
• Broward County: June 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, All Saints School, Sunrise, 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (I), Foundations of Catholicism (I), Intro to the Old Testament (II), Christology (III), New Testament (IV), Introduction to the Sacraments (I), Church History (IV): 2-4 p.m.: Teaching Religion Today (I), Principles of Christian Morality (III), Becoming Peacemakers (IV).
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Tecnica de las mujeres en las iglesias, 29 de julio-1 de agosto en Tampa. Con el Padre JUAN SASA, M.A., Sacerdote de Filipinas. 

Retiro “El Laico y la Palabra,” sábado, 6 de mayo, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., iglesia de St. John Bosco, salón San José, 1349 W. Flagler St., Miami. Información e inscripción: 305-649-5446.

Taller sobre cómo hablar con las niñas sobre el sexo, sábado, 6 de junio, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Salon Félix Varela, Ermita de la Caridad. Con consejeras y terapias en comunicación asertiva en familia, expertos en desarrollo y consejeros de programas de filtro para internet. Donación: $35/persona, incluye materias y almuerzo. Inscripción: 786-488-4092.


Women’s Emmaus retreat, June 13, 16, 18, 22, 24, St. Thomas More, 1107 N.W. 18 St., Miami. Sponsored by St. Augustine Parish. emmaus25@gmail.com.


SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Virtus workshops: To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and report them. Free. All sessions in English, except where noted. Information: 305-762-1250 or jrayburn@theadom.org.
• Wednesday, May 26, 6 p.m., Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy School, 2701 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables, 33134. 
• Thursday, May 27, 3 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pembroke Pines.
• Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m., St. Peter Parish, Big Pine Key.
• Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m., Mother of Christ, Miami (en español).
St. Maurice Parish marks 40th

St. Maurice Parish in Dania Beach invites former parishioners and the community to the celebration of its 40th anniversary.

The celebration will begin with a dinner dance June 11 at 6:30 p.m. and conclude with a Mass at 10 a.m. June 13. The Mass will be concelebrated by current pastor Father Roger Holoubek, along with founding pastor Father David Russell and former pastor Father Sean Mulcahey.

The Mass will be followed by a picnic for the whole family.

St. Maurice is located at 2851 Stirling Road, Dania Beach. For more information, call 954-961-7777.

Bishop Noonan to celebrate Gaelic Mass

Irish-born Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan will be the main celebrant of the annual Mass to commemorate the victims of the great Irish famine (An Gorta Mór, 1845-1850). The Mass will be celebrated Sunday, May 30, 3 p.m., at Little Flower Parish, 1805 Pierce St., Hollywood.

It will be followed by a “waking” for famine victims at The Field Soup Kitchen, 3281 Griffin Road, Dania Beach. The waking will feature free soup, music by “Echoes of Erin,” Irish dancers and storytelling.

The Mass is sponsored by Irish-American organizations in south Florida and the goal also is to raise awareness about hunger in the world today. The date has been designated by the Irish government to commemorate this watershed event in Irish history.

“During the ‘Great Hunger,’ the Irish Catholics were put to the extreme test in keeping their faith, dying of pure hunger rather than accept soup from the Protestant missionaries,” said Marie Smith, a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Miami Shores who is helping to organize the event.

For information, call 305-891-0715 or 954-522-4948.

Carmelite Friars return to Miami

The Discalced Carmelite Friars, who led the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Spiritual Life Center until its closing in July 2008, are opening a new house of prayer at 15710 N.W. 44 Court, Miami Gardens.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel House of Prayer opened to the public May 17, continuing the work started by Carmelite Fathers Eusebio Gómez and Lucio del Burgo and Brother Jorge Llorentes.

The new house of prayer will be staffed by Carmelite Fathers Lázaro René de la Fe, Miguel Díaz and Jorge Zurek, and Brother Emir Llorentes.

Their mission will be to promote Carmelite spirituality in all its expressions and to accompany the different groups that come to the house searching for God in their lives.

The house will offer the following services in Spanish: courses in Christian and Carmelite spirituality for prayer groups, leaders of Christian communities, clergy, and religious; guided individual and group retreats; group retreats with their own guide; sacrament of reconciliation and spiritual direction (by appointment only); Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 a.m.; and Mass with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

For information, call 305-816-6468.

Gallery features works by disabled artists

Schott Communities will open its art gallery, featuring the creative art and spirit of Schott’s disabled artists, on Thursday, June 3, 6:30 p.m., at 6391 Flamingo Road, Cooper City.

Cooper City Mayor Debby Eisinger will be on hand for the official ribbon cutting, and attendees will be able to meet the artists and enjoy refreshments. The event is sponsored by the Prestige Club, which provides support to disadvantaged children and families in Broward County.

There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call 954-434-3308 for information.

The Best of Ireland

August 4-13, 2010

Discover the beauty of the Emerald Isle, Natural beauty, romantic castles, and friendly people. Whether you have Irish ancestry or not, you'll fall in love with Ireland!

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Experience Ireland in a way that would not be possible on your own.

Book now! Last year’s trip sold out early!

Round trip from Miami/Ft. Lauderdale and non-slip from N.Y.

Cost: $3,290 per person, double occupancy, plus taxes and fuel surcharges and subject to currency fluctuations.
Catechist courses offered in summer

The archdiocese's Religious Education Department has scheduled its annual summer institutes for catechists in both Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The dates and courses to be offered are as follows:

Dade Summer Institute, June 14, 16, 18, 22 and 24, St. Thomas the Apostle School, 7003 S.W. 64th St., Miami:

• 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (Level 1), Foundations of Catholicism (Level 1), Intro to the Old Testament (Level 2), Christology (Level 3), Liturgy (Level 4).

• 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.: Introduction to the Sacraments (Level 1), St. Paul's Letters (Level 3), Church History (Level 4).

• 2-4 p.m.: Intro to the New Testament (Level 2), Principles of Christian Morality (Level 3), Becoming Peacemakers (Level 4).

Broward Summer Institute, June 15, 17, 21, 23 and 25, All Saints School, 10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise:

• 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (Level 1), Foundations of Catholicism (Level 1), Intro to the Old Testament (Level 2), Christology (Level 3).

• 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.: Introduction to the Sacraments (Level 1), Church History (Level 4).

• 2-4 p.m.: Teaching Religion Today (Level 1), Principles of Christian Morality (Level 3), Becoming Peacemakers (Level 4).

The rates and courses to be offered are as follows:

• 2-4 p.m.: Intro to the New Testament (Level 2), Principles of Christian Morality (Level 3), Becoming Peacemakers (Level 4).

Broward Summer Institute, June 15, 17, 21, 23 and 25, All Saints School, 10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise:

• 9-11 a.m.: Teaching Religion Today (Level 1), Foundations of Catholicism (Level 1), Intro to the Old Testament (Level 2), Christology (Level 3).

• 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.: Introduction to the Sacraments (Level 1), St. Paul's Letters (Level 3), Church History (Level 4).

• 2-4 p.m.: Intro to the New Testament (Level 2), Principles of Christian Morality (Level 3), Becoming Peacemakers (Level 4).

Fees are $35 per course ($45 after June 1). Checks should be made payable to the Archdiocese of Miami. For more information, call Anyely Garcia at 305-762-1107.

St. Stephen opens retreat center

St. Stephen Parish now has a retreat center on the site of the old convent at 6081 S.W. 21 St., Miramar.

The St. Eugene De Mazenod Spiritual Center has 44 beds and a full kitchen with a stove and refrigerators. Each room is equipped with an air conditioner. There is a large meeting room along with two smaller rooms and a chapel.

“We have done some major renovations and have made it very comfortable for everyone,” said parishioner Mary Raynor.

The rates are: $40 per person, one night only; $50 per person, two nights; $65 per person, three nights; and $80 per person, for team members or adult leaders staying overnight. Parish groups are welcome.

To tour the center, call Raynor at 954-981-4589 or 954-270-2770; or contact the parish office at 954-987-1100 and ask for Oblate Missionary Father Jonathan Closer.
ARCHBISHOP THOMAS WENSKI

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St. John The Apostle Church

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski

with the clergy, religious and faithful of

as he is installed as Archbishop of Miami.

Welcome home ArchBIShoP WensKi

of Miami as our Fourth

BISHOPS

FROM A13

was a long shot because it didn’t have a long history. It was awarded because of its tourist ministry.

There are only 63 basilicas in the United States (all minor) and three basilicas in Florida: The first is the Cathedral Basilica in St. Augustine and of course now two in the Diocese of Orlando. Four historical churches in Rome are referred to as major basilicas. On this the feast of the Convers-

ion of St. Paul, patron of this parish Church," Bishop Wenski said in his homily at the dedication of the Bas-

ilica of St. Paul the Apostle, "we give thanks to God for the favor shown to our diocese and this pioneer parish of Volusia County by Pope Benedict XVI in raising this beautiful and his-

toric church to the status and dignity of a minor basilica."

The church built in 1927 and re-

stored in 1996 is irreplaceable. It was built in the Spanish-mission style with 3-foot-thick walls and includes the classic architectural elements of a long center aisle with high ceiling and columns separating the low-

celling side aisles. "This beautiful and inviting church — and I am speaking not only of the physical stones that make up this building but also of the living stones that make up this parish community," then-Bishop Wenski had continued in his hom-

ily, "is situated not on the road to Damascus but on U.S. 1; and along this road, this church must also be an instrument to help others experi-

ence the one savior of all mankind, Jesus Christ."

BASILICA OF THE

NATIONAL SHRINE OF

MARY, QUEEN OF

THE UNIVERSE

Although the ministry to tour-

ists began in 1978, groundbreaking for what has become the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando was Aug. 22, 1990. The structure itself is so new in comparison to its sister ba-

silica in Daytona Beach, but it too possesses the classic architectural elements, and both churches boast magnificent masterpieces of art.

We gather today on this feast of the Queenship of Mary," then-Bishop Wenski said in his homily at the dedication, "to give thanks for the favor shown to this national shrine dedicated to Mary, Queen of the Universe, and once again to our diocese. ... It’s indeed fitting that Mary Queen of the Universe is given the dignity of being a basilica for, because of the thousands of visitors who come here from everywhere, it is a parish church for the whole world."

Father Edward McCarthy, rector, commented, "The archbishop is an unbelievable worker. His work ethic is unbelievably huge. He gave the final push (for the basilica designation) at the end before the summer began and that paid off."

"Today’s feast of the Queenship of Mary, as well as elevation of this shrine as a minor basilica," then-

Bishop Wenski’s homily continued, "is for us an invitation to trust in God and also to imitate Mary in what she herself said: ‘Behold, I am the hand-
maiden of the Lord’. As she put her-

self at the Lord’s disposal, so may we — and in doing so be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

As a basilica, the pope’s church is honored to bear the coat of arms of Vatican City on its façade and display the tintinnabulum — a bell on a long staff which rings to announce the approach of the pope — and the ombrellino — an elaborate umbrel-

la made of alternating red and yel-

low fabric — to protect the pope in inclement weather. It remains half-

open in preparation to welcome him.

“On the afternoon of the shrine’s investiture, the ombrellino and tintinnabulum were St. Paul’s,” explained Father Webster. “There wasn’t enough time for them to come from Rome. It linked the two basilicas — the premiere church of Mary, Queen of the Universe and the oldest church building in our diocese. I don’t believe we’ll ever see that again.”

Father Webster concluded: "Arch-

bishop Wenski was very happy to see Daytona Beach honored and no one would question the worthiness. The same was very much true for the shrine — the number of people who visit from around the world. They were two really good days in the Church of Orlando — days we’ll always remember."
Family offers praise to their ‘Tommy’ as a man, leader

This story is reprinted from the 2003 special section when Archbishop Wenski become bishop of Orlando

JULIE GREENE

ORLANDO — Angela Kopelakis, Bishop Thomas Wenski’s only niece, was only 4 years old when her beloved “Uncle Tommy” became a priest 27 years ago.

“I remember swinging back and forth on the front pew,” said the 38-year-old dental hygienist who lives in Lake Worth with her husband, J.J., and 2-year-old daughter, Briana. “And when the bishop who ordained him placed his hands on his head, I remember yelling ‘Get your hands off my Uncle Tommy.’ I guess I thought he was hurting him. Uncle Tommy kind of glanced at me trying not to laugh but he did real well; he kept a straight face.”

That protective and loving feeling that Kopelakis shared in a telephone interview with the Florida Catholic illustrates the pride of his immediate and extended blood family who live in Florida, Michigan and New York. Moreover, that does not even touch on the many Haitian and Cuban Catholics in Miami who view him as an adopted son or brother, one of their own.

Bishop Wenski is nothing if not close to his only sister, Mary Engle, who, only 11 months younger than he, still lives in the Lake Worth home where they grew up, raised by loving and devoted parents, Chester, a Polish immigrant, and his second-generation Polish wife, Louise Zawacki, both now deceased.

Engle recalled her childhood memories when she and her brother rode their bikes in the neighborhood and hung out at the local Polish Club and Knights of Columbus hall. They also experienced typical sibling rivalry.

“Tommy used to read a lot and was a very good student,” she said. “I used to tease him because I was a little jealous. He always did well in school and I didn’t.”

Bishop Wenski’s cousin, Gloria Kraczon of Warren, Mich., one of several extended family members from up north with whom he remains in contact, remembered visiting her Florida relatives when she was 11 and “Tommy” was 9 or 10. Bishop Wenski’s mother and his cousin’s mother were sisters.

“I remember Tommy leading us down to the railroad tracks not far from their house to watch the trains go by,” Kraczon said. “It was typical kid stuff. We weren’t rich so I remember sharing a lot of home-cooked meals, going to the beach, talking and playing outside.”

The Wenski household was a close one. Although the Polish community was small in Lake Worth, Bishop Wenski and his sister heard their parents speak Polish, listened to Polish music and kept their Catholic faith, another Polish tradition, at the forefront.

From early on, Engle knew her brother would grow up to be a priest.

“He used to play Mass in his room and he’d always make me be his altar boy. He must have been 7 or 8 and he knew then he wanted to be a priest.”

Engle felt her brother’s absence when he left at 13 to enter St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami.

“I was very lonely when he left but we wrote letters all the time and he used to be able to come home once a month,” she said. Engle said her brother often spent his breaks from school working at his parish and school, Sacred Heart, cleaning and painting the walls, a trade he might have inherited from his father who ran his own stucco painting business, Colorcrete. His mother kept the books.

When Bishop Wenski finished high school and college in Miami, he moved right on to his theological training at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.
FAMILY
FROM A27

Later on, after Engle had her daughter, Bishop Wenski served as an active godfather and was like a second father to the child.

“He taught me how to skate and ride my bike,” Kopelakis said.

“My brother has always been very down to earth and he’s always tried to stay connected to the people,” Engle said. “The Haitian and Cuban people love him so much, they feel like he’s one of them.”

His niece pulls no punches when it comes to expressing her admiration for Uncle Tommy.

“My uncle will become the pope,” Kopelakis said. “I don’t know a better man than that.”

“Whenever he comes to town he always wants to go to a Polish restaurant in Hamtramck, which is a Polish suburb of Detroit, where his mother and my mother were born,” Kraczon said. “He’s a great guy,” she said.

“He and my husband both love motorcycles and every time he comes to visit, the two of them always gang up on me to allow my husband to buy one. That’s not going to happen, but they keep trying,” she said with a laugh.

When family members heard he was moving from Miami to Orlando after 27 years, they admitted to being shocked and, in some cases, heartbroken.

“I cried and cried when I heard,” Kopelakis said. “I was being selfish I know but I felt like he was being taken away from me. When he was in Miami, we used to enjoy going down to visit him. He’s tried to assure us we could still visit him and go to Disney but it’s further in the center part of the state where it’s hotter and more humid. I just hope the people of Orlando appreciate him.”

“‘It will be different but this will be a new adventure for him and a new challenge,’ she said. ‘I am sure he will do a good job.’”

Enrolling for first time in school with his sister, 1956.

Kopelakis recalled after Bishop Wenski’s ordination as bishop, his photograph took center stage on her mother’s refrigerator, with only a picture of the pope accompanying it.

“Every morning she would come out and say a little prayer in front of it,” Kraczon said. “She said that she fully expected him to make it to cardinal.”

Bishop Wenski’s niece has higher hopes.

“I truly believe that one day my uncle will become the pope and he deserves it,” Kopelakis said. “I don’t know a better man than him. He’s a role model for priests everywhere.”

Kopelakis said a wall in her home is dedicated to her uncle, and it features family mementos, including her uncle’s bronzed baby shoes, her grandmother’s Bible and a variety of family photographs, with Bishop Wenski’s in the center, surrounded by cherubs.

Since becoming bishop, Bishop Wenski’s travel has increased, making his visits to Michigan to see relatives more frequent.

He’s even gone to Guantanamo Bay. He’s not afraid to do what’s right even if it isn’t the popular thing to do.”

Kopelakis said a wall in her

home at Guantanamo Bay. He’s not afraid to do what’s right even if it isn’t the popular thing to do.”

When Bishop Wenski became bishop in 1997, family gathered around him to show their support. Although his parents were no longer living by that time, Bishop Wenski remembered his father by putting the stone from his father’s ring into his bishop’s ring.

Although his cousin Gloria could not attend Bishop Wenski’s nuptial Mass for Kraczon’s son, Jon, and his wife, Jill, in 1999, she made sure her mother did.

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Since becoming bishop, Bishop Wenski’s travel has increased, making his visits to Michigan to see relatives more frequent. Bishop Wenski performed the nuptial Mass for Kraczon’s son, Jon, and his wife, Jill, in 1999, and returned recently to perform the baptism of the couple’s first child, Kurt.

Whenever he comes to town he always wants to go to a Polish restaurant in Hamtramck, which is a Polish suburb of Detroit, where his mother and my mother were born,” Kraczon said. Like his sister and niece, Kraczon said it is Bishop Wenski’s down-to-earth personality and sense of humor that stand out.

“’He’s a great guy,’ she said.

“He and my husband both love motorcycles and every time he comes to visit, the two of them always gang up on me to allow my husband to buy one. That’s not going to happen, but they keep trying,” she said with a laugh.

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After almost seven years of ministry to the Orlando Diocese, Bishop Thomas Wenski heads back to Miami as archbishop

This article appeared in the April 23 issue of the Florida Catholic Orlando after his announcement as archbishop of Miami

MARY ST. PIERRE
of the Florida Catholic

ORLANDO — As the newly appointed archbishop of Miami, one thing is certain — Bishop Thomas Wenski will immediately know where he is going. He’s been there before.

The Vatican announced April 20 that Bishop Wenski, 59, shepherd of the Diocese of Orlando since 2004, has been named by Pope Benedict XVI to succeed Archbishop John C. Favalora as archbishop of Miami. The Archdiocese of Miami is the metropolitan see for the Ecclesiastical Province of Miami, which covers Florida.

When the call first came from Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Wenski suggested a few other names to him.

“I suggested to him other names I thought should be considered but he insisted that many thought I should be the person for this time,” said Archbishop Wenski. “I did not want to say no to the pope.”

The son of a first-generation Polish immigrant and his second-generation Polish wife, Thomas Gerard Wenski was born Oct. 18, 1950, in West Palm Beach, and grew up in Lake Worth. Both of his parents are deceased. His only sibling, Mary Engle, and a niece live in the Haitian community in Miami. The Archdiocese of Miami is the metropolitan see for the Ecclesiastical Province of Miami, which covers Florida.

When I was a priest working in the Haitian community in Miami, my parents often times came to Mass there but didn’t understand what I was saying because I preached in Creole,” he said. “My parents died in the early 1990s before I was even an auxiliary bishop. I do hope they would have been pleased to hear the news.”

“Since I was a priest working in the Haitian community in Miami, my parents often times came to Mass there but didn’t understand what I was saying because I preached in Creole,” he said. “My parents died in the early 1990s before I was even an auxiliary bishop. I do hope they would have been pleased to hear the news.”

He studied at St. John Vianney Minor Seminary in Miami and then St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and a master of divinity degree. He was ordained a priest of the Miami Archdiocese on May 15, 1976. He later earned a master’s degree in sociology, with emphasis in pastoral planning, from Fordham University in New York in the early ’90s.

The synod enabled so many people of the diocese to get involved with the Church and the visioning of where we should be as Church in responding to the challenges of evangelization in the 21st century,” said Archbishop Wenski. “As a staunch defender of the Catholic faith, he has not been shy in expressing Church teachings in the public square on hot-button issues such as immigration, human trafficking, pro-life concerns, and care for the poor.

“Archbishop Wenski has not been shy in expressing Church teachings in the public square on hot-button issues such as immigration, human trafficking, pro-life concerns, and care for the poor.”

Then-Bishop Thomas Wenski addresses the faithful at the 2008 Festival Faith in Orlando. Pope Benedict XVI announced April 20 his appointment as archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Miami. Archbishop Wenski will succeed Archbishop John C. Favalora, becoming the fourth archbishop of Miami.

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Offer our Congratulations And Prayerful Good Wishes
to
The Most Reverend
Thomas G. Wenski

upon his appointment by
Pope Benedict XVI

as the fourth archbishop of
The Metropolitan See of
MIAMI

REMEMBERING BEFORE OUR GOD AND FATHER
YOUR WORK OF FAITH AND LABOR OF LOVE.
1 THESSALONIANS 1:3 (RSV)
the best basketball team, I speak of our faith and from our moral traditions.”

As Roman Catholic leader of the Diocese of Orlando, Archbishop Wenski has established eight new parishes and/or missions. At his welcome Mass as coadjutor bishop of the Orlando Diocese, he said, “The Lord always has surprises but the Lord always promises that he is with us.” At the Miami press conference April 20, he acknowledged in his statement that “Miami has its challenges but the Lord tells us, ‘Do not be afraid.’”

“You can find 365 references in Scripture where God, or one of his angels says, ‘Do not be afraid,’ so that’s a Scripture verse for every day of the year,” said Archbishop Wenski. The history of Miami, he said, has always been a cycle of boom and bust. While the present cycle is one of bust due to the economic crisis, he believes the boom of recovery will return within the next few years if not sooner.

“We see the airlines have less planes flying now than before — if they didn’t cut back they would not have been able to stay in business,” said Archbishop Wenski. Similarly the archdiocese had to make some difficult adjustments to protect its mission, which is to proclaim the Gospel to all. Now this mission is entrusted to me and with God’s help and with the support of the priests and people of the archdiocese, we will carry on with faith and trust in God’s providence.”

Reflecting on his time as shepherd of the Orlando Diocese, Archbishop Wenski expressed his appreciation for the priests of the Diocese of Orlando, which he described as a “wonderful presbyterate.”

“I have come to know them and to love every one of them and I appreciate the hard work they do day in and day out to serve the people of God here,” he said. “Whatever parish I have gone to, I have been very welcomed by the people and the priests. They all have responded well to my leadership.”

Archbishop Wenski noted with satisfaction that the number of seminarians studying for the Diocese of Orlando has more than doubled in the past five years. Also, during the same time, more than 35 priests were recruited to work in the Diocese of Orlando.

While there are many major projects unfinished as he leaves, Archbishop Wenski joked that if he knew his tenure in Orlando was coming to an end, he would have worked harder to get them all finished. But he noted that, as St. Paul said, one plants and another harvests.

“Hopefully,” Archbishop Wenski added, “what I have planted or initiated will result in stronger parishes and a stronger diocese so that always, ‘Alive in Christ,’ the Catholics of central Florida will continue to bear witness to the hope that does not disappoint — Jesus Christ.”

Miami Experience

- Served three years as associate pastor of Corpus Christi Church, a mainly Hispanic parish in Miami.
- In 1979, after briefly ministering in Haiti, he was assigned to the newly established Haitian Apostolate of the archdiocese. He was associate director and then director of the Pierre Toussaint Haitian Catholic Center in Miami from that time to his appointment as a bishop in 1997.
- He also served concurrently as pastor of three Haitian mission parishes in this archdiocese including: Notre Dame d’Haiti in Miami; Divine Mercy in Fort Lauderdale; and St. Joseph in Pompano Beach.
- Through the 1980s he also conducted a circuit-riding ministry that led him to help establish Haitian Catholic communities from Homestead in the south to Fort Pierce to the north, Immokalee to the west and Fort Lauderdale to the east.
- He celebrated the weekly televised Mass in English for shut-ins on Miami’s local ABC affiliate from 1992-1997.
- He directed the Archdiocese of Miami Ministry to non-Hispanic ethnic groups.
- In January 1996, then-Father Wenski was appointed the archdiocese director of Catholic Charities, one of the largest Catholic social service agencies in the United States. In this capacity he helped forge a collaborative relationship with Caritas Cuba, the social service arm of the Catholic Church in Cuba. Since early 1996 he has traveled to Cuba on many occasions on behalf of the Church. In late 1996 he spearheaded a relief operation that delivered more than 150,000 pounds of food to Caritas Cuba for distribution to people left homeless by Hurricane Lily. This was the first time that Cubans in Miami participated in a humanitarian relief effort directed to Cuba.
- Appointed auxiliary bishop of Miami June 24, 1997, he was ordained to the episcopacy Sept. 3, 1997, along with Bishop Gilberto Fernandez in the Miami Arena.
- In March 2005, he convoked the first-ever Diocesan Synod, “Staring Afresh from Christ.”
- He established 11 parishes or missions in the Diocese of Orlando from 2004 to 2010. These include: - Centro Catolico La Guadalupana Mission, Ocala - Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Celebration - Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, Oviedo - St. Faustina Catholic Church, Clermont - St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Summerfield - St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church, Orlando - St. Philip Phan Van Minh Catholic Church, Orlando - St. Vincent de Paul Church, Wildwood - San Juan Diego Mission, Mulberry - San Pedro de Jesus Maldanado Mission, Winterwood - Santo Toribio Romo Mission, Mascotte - During his episcopate in Orlando, two minor basilicas were designated: the Basilica of St. Paul, Daytona Beach in January 2006, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Orlando, in August 2009.
- He established El Clarín and Buena Nueva FM, two communication ministries for the Hispanic people.
- He emphasized vocations to the priesthood and religious life, establishing a full-time director of vocations. Currently, there are 25 seminarians in the Diocese of Orlando.
ARCHBISHOP THOMAS WENSKI

Born Oct. 18, 1950, in West Palm Beach, Archbishop Wenski is the son of first- and second-generation Polish immigrants. He attended Sacred Heart School in Lake Worth and in ninth grade entered what was then the high school seminary of St. John Vianney. He continued his studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Miami on May 15, 1976. He was named auxiliary bishop of Miami in 1997; coadjutor Bishop of Orlando in 2003; and will assume his duties as Archbishop of Miami and Metropolitan of the Province of Florida on June 1, 2010.

Bishop Wenski, shown here leading the “Bike with the Bishop” fundraising run in Orlando in 2009, says “a motorcycle ride helps clear the ‘cobwebs’ from the mind.”

Born in a storm: His birth took place “during the middle of Hurricane King. When I was growing up in Lake Worth my mother would talk about how difficult it was to get to St. Mary’s Hospital in West Palm because of the rain, wind and downed power lines.”

When he knew he wanted to be a priest: Sometime during the third grade “I began telling people that I wanted to be a priest.”

Person or event that triggered his vocation: “I am not sure, but one memory I have is when I was in the second grade my parents took me to the wake of our pastor, the priest who baptized me, Msgr. James Cann. (His nephew is Father Carl Morrison, a Miami priest). ... I still remember vividly seeing him laid out in the casket in church and what impressed me was the fact that he was dressed in his vestments as if he were about to celebrate Mass. ‘A priest forever…”

What he would be doing if he had not become a priest: “It’s hard to say – since I’ve always had a hard time imagining me doing anything else. Nothing else ever held the allure or the excitement that priesthood offered me.”

Favorite priestly assignment: “Perhaps the one I did the longest. I spent 18 years as a parish priest among the Haitian communities of south Florida. ‘Favorite’ doesn’t mean it was necessarily the easiest but it afforded me the opportunity to work among the poor and disenfranchised and to be in a sense ‘a missionary priest’ in my own backyard.”

Most difficult aspect of being a priest: “When John the Baptist introduced his disciples to Jesus he said, ‘He must increase and I must decrease.’ I think that’s always been for us the challenge — to get out of the Lord’s way so that our failings, our idiosyncrasies, our own ego does not distract our people from encountering Jesus in and through our ministry.”

His description of the ideal priest: “The ideal Christian, priest and bishop I have encountered has been John Paul II. He was a man happy in his own skin, proud of his ethnic and cultural identity as a son of the Polish nation, and totally given over to Christ.”

What he does on his day off: “A lot of times, since I am so busy on my days ‘on,’ I just like to chill and do nothing; but, if I have the time and the weather is good, a motorcycle ride helps clear the ‘cobwebs’ from the mind. It’s exhilarating and, believe it or not, relaxing.”

Favorite TV series: “When I get the time to watch TV, I like ‘House.’”

Last book read: “What Your Money Means — And How to Use It Well” by Frank J. Hanna. “Not that I have any money to speak of, but Hanna writes from the conviction of his Catholic faith about how he and other persons of influence and affluence can avoid the dangers of wealth and in fact use it as a school of virtue.”

Favorite type of music: “On the CD player in my car, I have a disk of Polish folk songs, one of Haitian ‘Kompa,’ one of Cuban salsa and one of Gregorian chant.”

His greatest disappointment: “That I haven’t learned to speak Polish well; I’ve tried but it’s a very hard language to master.”

His greatest joy: “To pass on the priesthood of Jesus Christ through the laying on of my hands when I ordain someone a priest.”

His greatest accomplishment: “That despite my shortcomings and human weakness I was ordained a priest 34 years ago.”

His harshest critic: “Probably that person who wrote the last angry letter to me — today, many people are angry and frustrated and it’s amazing how vehemently and often uncharitably people will disagree with something I say in my capacity as a bishop and teacher of the faith.”