



Statement on the retirement of Bishop Richard C. Hanifen

January 30, 2003

"The first bishop of a new diocese always has a special place in the heart of the local Church. In every sense, Bishop Hanifen has been the father of his diocese, and he'll be sorely missed. He's a man of intelligence, faith, charity and good humor. He's been a great friend in our work as bishops together in the state and in the region, and he'll always remain so.

"While we will miss Bishop Hanifen, the people of the Diocese of Colorado Springs are very blessed to have Bishop Michael Sheridan as their pastor. In the year since Pope John Paul II named him coadjutor bishop, Bishop Sheridan has shown again and again that he is a devoted servant of God, the people of his diocese and the Church. May God bless him and his ministry, and may God grant Bishop Hanifen peace, good health and happiness in his retirement."

+ Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Denver

+ José H. Gomez
Auxiliary Bishop of Denver