



**Statement on appointment of
Archbishop-elect Sean O'Malley to Boston**

July 1, 2003

"I've admired Archbishop-elect O'Malley for many years. We were seminary classmates, and we've remained good friends. He's a man of intelligence, integrity and great personal warmth. People seek him out because he has a great heart. He knows how to connect with other persons, no matter who they are, at a very human level. He's also thoroughly Capuchin in his view of the Church and the world. That means he values simplicity, fidelity, conversion and reform -- real reform in the spirit of St. Francis, who loved the Church and remained faithful to her teachings, even when the personal cost was very high. The people of Boston are getting one of the finest priests and bishops in the United States."