



Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Archbishop of Denver

Most Rev. James D. Conley, S.T.L.

Auxiliary Bishop of Denver

Statement

**Successor named for Diocese of Pueblo
Bishop-elect Fernando Isern to succeed Bishop Arthur Tafoya**

October 15, 2009

The Church has a long tradition of deepening the unity among her people by bringing good leaders to new communities where their talents can be most fruitful. Bishop-elect Fernando Isern is new to the Rocky Mountain west, but he comes with the enthusiastic support of the many laypeople and bishops, in Florida and elsewhere, who know the excellent quality of his priestly service. He has an outstanding record of leadership as a pastor, a devotion to prison ministry and advocacy for the unborn child and the poor, strong personal roots in the Latino community, and a demonstrated ability to work with persons of many different ethnic and social backgrounds.

Bishop Arthur Tafoya has served the Church in the Diocese of Pueblo in a distinguished way for many years. He will be greatly missed as a brother and leader as he begins a well-earned retirement. But he can take joy and confidence - as we do - in the character of the man who now takes up his duties.

Bishop-elect Isern, his successor, will now build on the legacy Bishop Tafoya leaves behind - a legacy of faith, great generosity and warmth among the Catholic people of southern and western Colorado.

We ask the people and clergy of the Archdiocese of Denver to join us in welcoming Bishop-elect to Isern the beauty of his new home state.

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