

The Most Reverend William E. Lori, S.T.D., Bishop of Bridgeport

The Most Reverend William Edward Lori, S.T.D., was installed as the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut, on March 19, 2001.

Born in Louisville, KY, in 1951, Bishop Lori obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the Seminary of Saint Pius X in Erlanger, KY, in 1973, and a Master's Degree from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, in 1977. In 1982, Bishop Lori received his Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Bishop Lori was **ordained** to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington by His Eminence, William Cardinal Baum, in 1977 in Saint Matthew Cathedral in Washington, DC. His first assignment was as Associate Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Landover, MD. Thereafter, he served as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Secretary to His Eminence, James Cardinal Hickey. In 1995, Bishop Lori was ordained to the episcopate as Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and Titular Bishop of Bulla.

Bishop Lori is **Chairman** of the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, and past Chairman of The Catholic University of America. In 2005, he was appointed Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. Bishop Lori serves as Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine, and is a member of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the ad-hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage.

As Bishop of Bridgeport, Bishop Lori has launched new initiatives to revitalize and expand **Catholic Charities** and **Catholic Education**. Catholic Charities, the largest private social services provider in the region, provides one million meals each year to the needy, and has embarked on new programs to assist immigrants and build affordable housing. Changes in the governance, funding, and curricula for the 39 Diocesan Catholic Schools, which educate more than 13,000 children each year, have enhanced the high level of academic achievement and faith-based education, making the dream of Catholic education a reality for every child.

Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life are a priority for Bishop Lori. Since becoming Bishop of Bridgeport in 2001, he has ordained 29 priests and 32 permanent deacons. There are 22 seminarians studying for the priesthood, with the Saint John Fisher Seminary Residence in Stamford a thriving house of discernment and formation.

Bishop Lori has also welcomed several orders of **women religious** to the Diocese of Bridgeport, including the Missionaries of Charity; the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the Institute of the Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matárea; and a brand new religious institute, the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Springs of Bridgeport. In 2004, Bishop Lori dedicated "Villa Maria Guadalupe" in Stamford, CT. The property was purchased by the Knights of Columbus, who invited the Sisters of Life, a religious community dedicated to protecting and advancing the sacredness of all human life, to offer pro-life retreats for individuals and families.

Under Bishop Lori's direction, the Diocese of Bridgeport has become a national leader in the administrative and financial practices of parishes, utilizing cutting-edge, web-based technologies, internal controls, and streamlined business processes. The results have enhanced accountability and transparency among clergy and laity in all 87 parishes, and restored faith that the Catholic Church is committed to **sound stewardship** of the resources entrusted to its care.

Finally, the Sisters of the Marian Community of Reconciliation are overseeing a renewal of religious education for young people and for adults, as well as the implementation of the new, five-year **Pastoral Plan**, "Following in the Footsteps of Christ," launched in October 2006. Its mission of evangelization has been expressed in many ways, including a renewal of youth ministry (including an annual "Fan the Fire" Youth Rally); a Saint Augustine Lecture Series, and "Be Reconciled to God," the first-ever campaign to promote the Sacrament of Reconciliation, was conducted in 2009 in all 87 parishes during the Season of Lent.

Enhanced **communications** are a key component of this new outreach, expressed best in Bishop Lori's online "blog," posted on www.BishopLoriBlog.org.

For more information on Bishop William E. Lori and the Diocese of Bridgeport, visit www.bridgeportdiocese.com