ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS

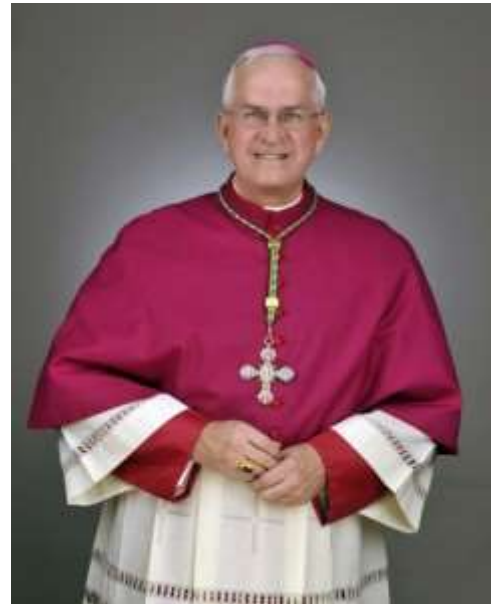## Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.

His Holiness Benedict XVI appointed Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D. as the fourth Archbishop and ninth bishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville on June 12, 2007. He was installed as Archbishop of Louisville on August 15, 2007. Before coming to Louisville, Archbishop Kurtz served as Bishop of Knoxville from 1999 to 2007. Archbishop Kurtz was appointed apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Louisville on February 8, 2022, with the appointment of Archbishop-designate Shelton Joseph Fabre, who was installed as Archbishop of Louisville on March 30, 2022.

Born on August 18, 1946, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz earned bachelor (1968) and master of divinity (1972) degrees from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and a master's degree in social work from the Marywood School of Social Work in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1976. Archbishop Kurtz was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Allentown on March 18, 1972.

Before becoming Bishop of Knoxville, Archbishop Kurtz served for 27 years in the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, in charge of social services, diocesan administration, and parish ministry. He was pastor of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Parish in Bethlehem, PA, from 1996 to 1999, and St. Mary Parish in Catasauqua, PA from 1988 to 1996, associate director and later executive director of the Catholic Social Agency and Family Life Bureau from 1976 to 1994, and diocesan coordinator for health affairs from 1991 to 1998.   He also served in formation at St. Pius X Seminary, as an instructor

at Mary Immaculate Seminary, and as the assistant director and promoter of vocations for the Diocese of Allentown. Archbishop Kurtz received the distinguished title of monsignor in 1986.

Archbishop Kurtz has served on numerous boards, including service on the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference from 1977 to 1998 and as the president of the board of directors of the Catholic Social Agency from 1988 to 1999. In Knoxville, Archbishop was a member of the Association of Christian Denominational Leaders from 2000 to 2007 and a member of the 2002 class of Leadership Knoxville. He served as Vice President of the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) from 2010 to 2013, as the President from 2013 to 2016, and in those capacities also served as a member of the Conference's executive and administrative committees. Archbishop was on the board of Leadership Louisville from 2008 to 2014 and on the board of St. Charles Seminary (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) from 2007 to 2014. In November of 2017, the bishops of the United States elected Archbishop Kurtz as the chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty, which he served on until 2019. He has served as a member of the Council for the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University, as the Episcopal Advisory for Engaged Encounter, and on the Advisory Board to the Cause for Archbishop Fulton Sheen's beatification. Archbishop Kurtz also served as the Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, as the board chair for the Catholic Education Partners, on the Board of Trustees for Catholic University of America, and on the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

In February of 2014, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Kurtz to the Holy See's Congregation for the Oriental Churches for a five-year term, which ended in 2019.

Archbishop Kurtz is the son of the (late) George and Stella (Zmijewski) Kurtz and the brother of (the late) Rosemarie Quinn, (the late) Patricia Cameli, (the late) George S. Kurtz and Theresa Nicholas.

The oldest Roman Catholic Archdiocese west of the Appalachians, the Archdiocese of Louisville was founded as the Diocese of Bardstown in 1808, transferred to Louisville in 1841, and elevated to Archdiocese in 1937. The Archdiocese covers 24 counties and hosts a Catholic population of more than 200,000 individuals.

Follow the Archbishop on Twitter and Facebook