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“Like Losing a Good Friend”

Cardinal Maida on the Death of Auxiliary Bishop Schoenherr

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Walter J. Schoenherr, 87, died Friday, April 27, of natural causes. Ordained a priest for the Detroit archdiocese in 1945, he was named an auxiliary bishop in 1968. He served in a number of parish assignments, including as pastor of St. Aloysius and Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, both in Detroit. Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, offers this remembrance:

“From head to toe, Bishop Walter Joseph Schoenherr was a priest. He loved the priesthood and when he was ordained a bishop 39 years ago, he made the pastoral care of his brother priests his highest priority.

“The teaching and spirituality of Vatican II truly shaped his life and ministry as he worked in a collaborative fashion with pastors and associates, deacons and religious, and the lay faithful of the Archdiocese. He always preached from the heart and found time for everyone—no matter how humble or simple.

“Losing Bishop Schoenherr feels like losing a good friend, someone you could always count on for down-to-earth wisdom and spiritual encouragement.

“Our presbyterate and our whole Archdiocese were greatly blessed by his holy life, his deep faith, and his decades of service to the Church of Detroit.”

— Cardinal Adam Maida
Archbishop of Detroit
April 27, 2007

Biographical and additional information on Bishop Schoenherr available at
www.AODonline.org