



For Immediate Release: October 12, 2018

## **Bishop Knestout's Statement Regarding Pope Francis Acceptance of Cardinal Wuerl's Resignation**

"Today, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Cardinal Donald Wuerl as archbishop of Washington.

Having assisted Cardinal Wuerl for nearly a decade with the many events of the Archdiocese, including coordinating the Archdiocesan Synod and 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, implementing programs for the New Evangelization, and as co-chair of the committees to coordinate two papal visits, I know him to be a dedicated bishop who is devoted to and fully focused on ministering to the people of God. My experience with him in Washington was as an effective teacher, as one who fostered the unity of the Church, love for the sacraments especially the Eucharist and as one who provided careful oversight for charitable works of the Archdiocese.

As I said on the day of my announcement as Bishop of Richmond: Cardinal Wuerl has taught me the importance of seeking the best from myself and the people around me who serve the mission of the Church, to proclaim the faith, to celebrate the sacraments and to serve in charity. For this, I am profoundly grateful.

I have great love and affection for the Archdiocese of Washington, for the faithful, and for those I've worked with and encountered there. I ask everyone to pray for the people of the archdiocese and for Cardinal Wuerl during this time of transition. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, inspire, and assist our beloved Church during this time."

###

The Diocese of Richmond covers over 33,000 square miles and serves more than 235,000 Catholics.

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

