



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pope Francis Accepts Resignation of Bishop Fernando Isern of Pueblo

The Diocese of Pueblo announces that today, 13 June 2013, His Holiness Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Most Reverend Fernando Isern, D.D., as Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo. Bishop Isern has resigned for reasons of health.

Father Fernando Isern was appointed fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo 15 October 2009 by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. He was ordained Bishop and installed 10 December 2009. Bishop Isern has made significant contributions to the Church of Pueblo during his tenure. He initiated Perpetual Adoration at the Shrine of St. Therese and has provided outstanding example of faithfulness through his own habit of adoration. He has overseen the gradual expansion of pastoral and administrative services from the Chancery staff to the priests and parishes of the Diocese. Bishop Isern has made pastoral visits to all 53 parishes and 44 missions across the 48,000 square miles of the Diocese. He brought the fruit of his listening to the priests, deacons, staff and people of the parishes back to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the six deaneries, who are now working to frame a Diocese-wide response to the peoples' hopes and desires. All of these initiatives stand as a continuing legacy of his leadership.

All the faithful of the Diocese of Pueblo, priests, deacons and people, wish to express their sincere, heartfelt thanks to Bishop Isern for his leadership and for his service and witness to the Pueblo Church these three and one half years. We are forever bound to him in deep gratitude and in heartfelt prayer.

The Diocese of Pueblo will host a farewell celebration for Bishop Isern Tuesday evening, June 25, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Pueblo. A reception in the Cathedral gym will follow.

Transitional leadership for the Diocese of Pueblo will be put in place during the next eight days.