



Dear Friends of the Michigan Catholic Conference:

Welcome to our brand new, state-of-the art Michigan Catholic Conference headquarters, right here in the heart of Lansing, the capital of our great state. In the name of my brother bishops of the seven dioceses of the state and on behalf of the two million Catholics of our state, I welcome you to this place from which much of the direction and energy for the Church's social ministry will flow.

Forty years ago John Cardinal Dearden had the wisdom to establish the Michigan Catholic Conference, one of the first such conferences in the nation. Over the decades, our conference has also become one of the largest and most influential in the nation through its expansive services to employees and its role in shaping public policy issues. This new building is a reflection of our ever-growing commitment to serve and represents a fine blending of "high tech," allowing for instantaneous communication between the dioceses and their parishes and schools within a classical structure that is rich in history, reminding us of the solid, resolute purpose of the Conference.

Under the watchful eye of Sister Monica Kostielney, president and chief executive officer of the Conference for over twenty-five years, this building was designed in such a way so as to enhance the mission of the Michigan Catholic Conference. From first to last, in the planning, two themes were present: the Lord as the divine architect and the needs of the people that we serve. Whether it is through the Venetian glass Beatitudes, classical portrayals of the Virgin Mary, or contemporary images, the building and all its accoutrements proclaim the mission—the Church's action on behalf of justice and its commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Life in every way possible.

I offer prayerful congratulations and best wishes to all who have been involved in any aspect of the project, and I pray that all who enter this place might experience the challenging and consoling grace of the Holy Spirit.

With all best wishes, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Catholic Conference, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit