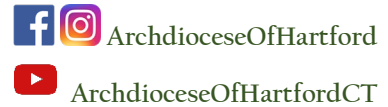


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pope Francis Appoints the Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne as Coadjutor
Archbishop of Hartford, Will Succeed Archbishop Leonard P. Blair in 2024**

The Vatican today announced that at the request of Archbishop Leonard P. Blair the Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed a Coadjutor Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Hartford. The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, until now the Bishop of Burlington, Vermont, has been appointed, and will succeed Archbishop Blair as Archbishop of Hartford when in 2024 the latter submits his resignation at the age of 75 in keeping with church law. Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne has served as Bishop of Burlington since January 2015. The Archbishop of Hartford is responsible for the spiritual shepherding of the half-million Catholics in Hartford, New Haven, and Litchfield counties; Archbishop Blair has served in this role since December of 2013.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops defines a **coadjutor** as “a bishop appointed to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese to assist the diocesan bishop. Unlike an auxiliary bishop, the coadjutor (arch)bishop has the right of succession, meaning that he automatically becomes the new bishop when the diocesan bishop retires, resigns, or dies.”

Coadjutor Archbishop Coyne will take up residence in the Archdiocese with a Mass of Welcome to be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Hartford, on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 2 PM.

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