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# Word™

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**Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD, Superior General of the Society of Divine Word was named Archbishop of Ende in Indonesia by Pope Francis on May 25, 2024.**

(Photo by Fr. James Pawliski, SVD)





Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD  
Archbishop Elect for Diocese of Ende in Indonesia.



On May 25, 2024, His Holiness, Pope Francis, appointed, Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD, as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ende in Indonesia, until now Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word.

Little did we here at St. Augustine in Bay Saint Louis, MS during our Centennial Celebration in October of 2023 know that Pope Francis was watching us. The Pope must have been impressed with our faith expressed by a massive crowd of over a thousand people, and the homily delivered by Father Paulus Budi Kleden, Superior General, on that occasion. Fr. Kleden gave his homily and stayed with us for a few days. Photos show how much he enjoyed being here and meeting all the people at the Centennial celebration. Who knows? Maybe the Holy Father made up his mind appointing him to Ende after seeing what a good, competent and kind person he is.

Archbishop Elect Kleden was born November 16, 1965 in Larantuka, Indonesia. He was ordained on May 15, 1993, in St. Gabriel, Austria. He has a Doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany. Since his ordination to the priesthood, he has exercised various ministries and responsibilities: He was elected Superior General in 2018..

The Archdiocese of Ende was erected in 1913 as an Apostolic Prefecture. In 1961 it became an archdiocese. It has 5,084 square kilometers and 486,000 Catholics (in a population of 602,000). It has 72 parishes, 261 priests (185 diocesan, 76 religious), 9 deacons, 230 members of women's religious institutes, 203 members of men's religious institutes, 74 seminarians (2023).

José Antunes da Silva, SVD Vice Superior General said "The Holy Father has once again expressed the confidence of the Holy See in our Society. The pastoral service that will be assumed by archbishop-elect Budi Kleden is important in the local Church of Indonesia. He needs our prayers and support. May the Holy Spirit assist Fr. Budi Kleden so that he continues to radiate the "goodness and kindness of God" through his life and work."

Congratulations to Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden. Be assured that all of us at St. Augustine's, alumni and parishes of the Southern Province send you our prayers and best wishes.

*(front cover photo is of Fr. Kleden giving homily at Centennial celebration)*

# Statement in Response to the 2024 Benedictine College Commencement Address

*Harrison Butker, 28, the placekicker for the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League, delivered the commencement address at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, on Saturday, May 11, 2024. His remarks came under intense criticism especially his remarks that women are called to be homemakers. The Sisters of Mount Scholastica responded to those remarks in this letter they publicly released.*

The sisters of Mount St. Scholastica do not believe that Harrison Butker's comments in his 2024 Benedictine College commencement address represent the Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college that our founders envisioned and in which we have been so invested.

Instead of promoting unity in our church, our nation, and the world, his comments seem to have fostered division. One of our concerns was the assertion that being a homemaker is the highest calling for a woman. We sisters have dedicated our lives to God and God's people, including the many women whom we have taught and influenced during the past 160 years. These women have made a tremendous difference in the world in their roles as wives and mothers and through their God-given gifts in leadership, scholarship, and their careers. Our community has taught young women and men not just how to be "homemakers" in a limited sense, but rather how to make a Gospel-centered, compassionate home within themselves where they can welcome others as Christ, empowering them to be the best versions of themselves.

We reject a narrow definition of what it means to be Catholic. We are faithful members of the Catholic Church who embrace and promote the values of the Gospel, St. Benedict, and Vatican II and the teachings of Pope Francis.

We want to be known as an inclusive, welcoming community, embracing Benedictine values that have endured for more than 1500 years and have spread through every continent and nation. We believe those values are the core of Benedictine College.

We thank all who are supportive of our Mount community and the values we hold. With St. Benedict, we pray, "Let us prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he lead us all together to life everlasting."



# in a word or two

For the Allies' D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France on June 6, 1944, New Orleans supplied the landing crafts called Higgins boats.

For D-Day's 80th anniversary, New Orleans is sending the St. Augustine High School Marching 100. Some 112 members of the famed marching band and four dozen chaperones are scheduled to fly to France on June 3. During its week abroad, the Marching 100 will participate in D-Day commemorations at the American cemeteries in Normandy and Brittany. Jude Villavaso, a rising 10th grader, is slated to deliver a keynote address in French and English.

The Marching 100 will also march in an anniversary parade through the French town of Sainte Mere Eglise and perform at the Jardin d'Acclimatation, an amusement park in Paris.

More than a year of planning and fundraising preceded the trip. Over \$700,000 was raised to cover flights, lodging, food, ground transportation and other costs.

It is the most ambitious field trip ever undertaken by St. Augustine since its 1951 founding by Josephite priests as a college preparatory school for young Black males. The students will represent their school, and New Orleans, on a world stage. *information from www.nola.com*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL



On May 28 Archbishop William E. Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore after years planning [released a final decision](#) for the dramatic realignment of the Catholic Church in Baltimore City and the awakening of 21st-century evangelization and missionary service through reimagined parish communities that move beyond the constraints of campuses designed 100 or 200 years ago.

Per the final plan, the existing 61 parishes will be merged into 23 parishes and 30 worship and ministry sites in Baltimore City and in some of the immediate suburbs.

Archbishop Lori said the decision will allow the Church to pour more resources into mission and ministry as opposed to leaking roofs, crumbling walls and failing electric and plumbing. He called the decision "heart-wrenching but necessary and overdue."

The long process titled *Seek the City* initiative paid careful attention to population loss in Baltimore City, especially its ties to racism and disinvestment in Black communities.

Thus, the Archdiocese is intentional about keeping parishes planted in storied African American communities, such as St. Ambrose in Park Heights and St. Bernardine in Edmondson Village. Both St. Francis Xavier and St. Peter Claver hold historical importance in the life of the Church and for Black Catholics specifically. They, too, will remain open. After hearing an outcry from the parishioners at St. Veronica in Cherry Hill when its recommended closure was announced last month, Archbishop Lori reversed course, and the doors of this parish will also remain open.

*information from Archdiocese of Baltimore*

Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Arkansas. IN A WORD is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager; consultant.

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