ALBUQUERQUE – Wednesday, January 04, 2012 - IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan was notified by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, that Pope Benedict XVI has named two Archdiocese of Santa Fe priests “Monsignor”. They are Rev. Anthony “Tony” Bolman and Rev. Bennett J. Voorhies. The honors were bestowed by the Holy Father on November 11, 2011.

Msgr. Anthony “Tony” Bolman was honored with the title of Prelate of Honor of His Holiness. Msgr. Bolman was ordained by Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne on May 28, 1960 at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral. He served as parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier in Albuquerque and at Our Lady of Sorrows in Manzano. He was named administrator of Santa Clara in Wagon Mound in 1964 and then its pastor in 1965. He has also served as pastor of St. Rita in Carrizozo, St. Rose of Lima in Santa Rosa (twice – 1969 and 1991), Our Lady of Sorrows in Bernalillo, St. Anthony in Pecos, St. Mary’s in Vaughn, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Pojoaque, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Albuquerque, St. Joseph’s in Raton, St. Thomas Aquinas in Rio Rancho, and Church of the Ascension in Albuquerque. Msgr. Bolman “retired” on July 17, 1999. Since that time he has been assisting his brother priests so they can take vacations, retreats, or time-off for illness. He is a humble priest who lives to provide sacramental ministry. He also served on the Priest Personnel Board and was a member of the College of Consultants. Prior to becoming a priest, Msgr. Bolman served in World War II.

Msgr. Bennett J. Voorhies, current pastor of Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, was honored with the title of Chaplain of His Holiness, also on November 11, 2011. Msgr. Voorhies was ordained by Pope John Paul II (now Blessed) at St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City State, Rome on June 12, 1983. He is fluent in English, Italian and some French. He was ordained for the Diocese of Lafayette and served as associate pastor at Saints Peter & Paul in Scott and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Ville Platte, administrator of St. Patrick in Lafayette and pastor of St. Michael the Archangel in Crowely. He also served as Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette. For health reasons he asked for permission to serve in a drier climate. On January 17, 1997 he was appointed as parochial vicar at Santa Maria de La Paz in Santa Fe then pastor of St. Anthony’s in Pecos. He was named Chancellor, Vicar for Priests and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe on June 4, 2001, following then Msgr. Joseph Pepe who had been named as Bishop of Las Vegas. When the Diocese of Lafayette was appointed a new bishop he called Fr. Voorhies to return home. He returned to Lafayette on January 3, 2005. His health again prevented him from staying in the humid climate of the Lafayette Diocese. He was named pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation on May 27, 2005. Msgr. Voorhies was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe on July 12, 2006.

We currently have 11 Monsignori living in the archdiocese. In addition to the two newly named above we also have Msgr. Robert Calles, now retired from the Diocese of El Paso; Msgr. Francis X. Eggert, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque; Msgr. Leo Gomez, now retired from the Diocese of Gallup; Msgr. Leo Lucero, now retired; Msgr. Lambert Joseph Luna, vicar general of the archdiocese and pastor of St. Joseph on the Rio Grande in Albuquerque; Msgr. Jerome Martinez y Alire, rector of The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe; Msgr. Richard Olona, pastor of Risen Savior Catholic Community in Albuquerque; Msgr. Douglas A. Raun, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rio Rancho; and Msgr. Sipio A. Salas, now retired.

BACKGROUND: The various ranks of Monsignori are Protonotary Apostolic, Prelate of Honor of His Holiness and Chaplain of His Holiness. These are distinctions bestowed among the general ranks of priests at the recommendation of their (Arch)bishop and it is the Vatican who decides the rank bestowed. Monsignori become part of the “papal household” and are listed in the Annuario Pontificio.