

Biography of The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt

Bishop John Clayton Nienstedt was born March 18, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan. He is the son of John and Elizabeth Nienstedt of Harrison Township and the second oldest in a family of six children. He has two brothers and three sisters. His parents are members of St. Paul Parish, Grosse Pointe Farms, and St. Hubert Parish, Harrison Township.

Bishop Nienstedt was ordained to the priesthood on July 27, 1974, at Sacred Heart Church, Dearborn, Michigan, following studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

Bishop Nienstedt holds a Bachelor of Arts from Sacred Heart Major Seminary; a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University; and a Licentiate and Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Institute of Saint Alphonsus, Rome. His doctoral topic was “Human Life in a Test-tube; the Moral Dimension of In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer.”

In 1994, Bishop Nienstedt was appointed Pastor of the Shrine of the Little Flower Parish, Royal Oak, Michigan. Prior to that, he served for six years as Rector and President of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

Bishop Nienstedt’s previous assignments include: Associate Pastor, Guardian Angels Parish, Clawson, Michigan; Priest-Secretary to Cardinal John Dearden; Weekend Associate Pastor, St. Fabian Parish, Farmington Hills, Michigan, and Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington, Michigan; Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Detroit; Service in the Vatican Secretariat of State; and Pastor, St. Patrick Parish, Union Lake, Michigan.

On June 12, 1996, Bishop Nienstedt was named an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit by Pope John Paul II. He was ordained a Bishop on July 9, 1996, by Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit. Bishop Nienstedt served as Bishop for the Dearborn, Downriver, Monroe, Northwest Wayne, Southland, and Western Wayne Vicariates.

On June 12, 2001, Pope John Paul II named Bishop Nienstedt the Third Bishop of the Diocese of New Ulm. He was installed on August 6, 2001.

On April 24, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Nienstedt the Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.