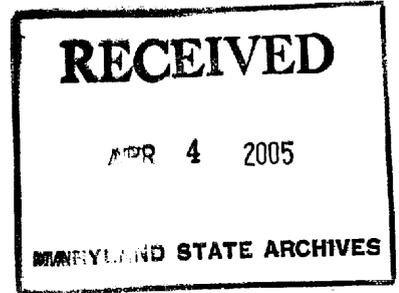


ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 31, 2005



The Honorable Edward C. Papenfuse
State Archivist and
Commissioner of Land Patents
Maryland State Archives
350 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Papenfuse,

I want to thank you for your note of March 28th and the great honor you do me to invite me to give the invocation at the ceremony of the change of name of the Hall of Records building in Annapolis.

First of all, my sincerest and warmest congratulations to you on this very special honor which the Board of Public Works is giving you. It will be a tribute for the future and truly a great celebration of a most dedicated and devoted man.

Unfortunately, as is the case with Cardinal Keeler, I will have to be out of town on that day. The 29th of June is the celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Paul in Rome and the day in which the Holy Father presents the palliums to new Archbishops. A number of American Archbishops are being honored on that day and, since so many friends of mine are in that group, I have promised to be in Rome to celebrate with them. My plans call for me to leave the day before your celebration, and therefore I am so sorry that I am not going to be able to be present.

I thank you for inviting me and, since it is so important a day, not just for you, but for the State of Maryland, I truly regret that I cannot be with you. Please be sure of my prayers for you as you receive this honor and my very best wishes.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Washington