

Media Advisory

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KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER STATEMENT ON ARCHBISHOP WILTON GREGORY BEING NAMED CARDINAL BY POPE FRANCIS

NEW ORLEANS – Today, Pope Francis has named our brother Knight, Washington D.C. Archbishop Wilton Gregory, to become the first Black prelate from the United States to earn the coveted red cap. Our brother was picked by Pope Francis to lead the archdiocese in the U.S. capital last year. Archbishop Gregory is a long-time member of the Knights of Peter Claver who has been an ardent supporter of our causes over the years. We are particularly proud of the leadership has provided to the American Catholic Church on issues of race and the dignity of human life. Most recently, he announced the Archdiocese of Washington's new initiative, "Made in God's Image: Pray and Work to End the Sin of Racism," which will promote pastoral activities and outreach including prayer, listening sessions, faith formation opportunities and social justice work. We congratulate our brother on this significant milestone on his pastoral journey and for the church at large.

About the Knights of Peter Claver -

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. is the nation's only African-American Catholic fraternal order and the largest historically black Catholic organization in the world. The Order was founded on November 7, 1909 in Mobile, Alabama for Catholic men of color and now comprises the Catholic Church at large including clergy, women, and youth. The Order is named after St. Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest from Spain who ministered to African slaves in Cartagena, Colombia during the 1600s. The Knights of Peter Claver operates over 400 units in 72 Catholic Dioceses in the United States and South America. The organization is headquartered in New Orleans and is a member of the worldwide International Alliance of Catholic Knights.

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