



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Bishop Bartchak Mourns the Passing of Apostolic Nuncio

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) -- The Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, issued the following statement regarding the passing of the Most Rev. Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Most Reverend Pietro Sambì. Archbishop Sambì lived a life of extraordinary service to the Catholic Church around the world and most recently as the Holy Father's Ambassador to the United States. I am particularly grateful to Archbishop Sambì for his presence and generosity to me on the recent occasion of my Episcopal Ordination and Installation as the eighth Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown. He personally informed me on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI that I had been appointed Bishop. May the Lord welcome Archbishop Sambì into His Heavenly Kingdom and give comfort to his family."

Archbishop Sambì's attendance at the Ordination and Installation of Bishop Bartchak was the Archbishop's last official visit to a Diocesan Church.