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Reflections on Baltimore's Archbishop Borders

Religious, political leaders mourn his death

By Erica L. Green, The Baltimore Sun

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"I join all Marylanders today in mourning the passing of Archbishop William Donald Borders, a religious leader who touched the lives of everyone who knew him. He was an unassuming person, and I was always impressed by his common touch and how he could relate to nearly everyone he met. He didn't care about titles or position, but he had a way of making everyone feel valued and that their opinion mattered."

—**U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin**

"I am very saddened to learn of the passing of Archbishop William Donald Borders, who helped guide Baltimore Catholics for over 15 years.

"Archbishop Borders spent his life working to advance the common good, including naming the archdiocese's first female pastoral director. His good works reminded all of us that there is indeed a unity to spirit and matter. His service in the Lord's name mattered to so many families throughout our state.

"Our hearts today are with the countless members of his congregation and our extended Catholic family."

— **Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley**

"Today we mourn the passing of a dedicated and faithful leader. For more than a decade, Archbishop William Donald Borders served as spiritual leader to the Baltimore area's 500,000 Catholics. Archbishop Borders was an inspiration to us all. I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to Archbishop Borders' family and to Baltimore's entire Catholic family. We have benefited greatly from Archbishop Borders' service and he will truly be missed."

—**Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young**

"Archbishop Borders was a man of deep faith, great humility and great love for God, the Church and this archdiocese. As a result, he was universally loved by the people of this local Church, by his brother bishops and priests, and by all who were blessed to call him archbishop, father, teacher, brother and friend."

—**Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien**

"He always extended warmth and kindness to my [priesthood], and for that I will always be grateful."

—**The Rev. Adam J. Parker, ordained by Archbishop Borders in 1990**

"If ever there was one who enabled us to know that Jesus was in our presence ... it was that kind and gentle shepherd."

—**The Rev. Gilbert Seitz**

"Even if you just passed in the hallway, he always had a kind word — always asked how you were doing."

—**Dave McHugh, tour guide at the Basilica of the Assumption**

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