

**TO: News Editors  
All Media Houses**

**Date:** April 30, 2009

Embargoed until Thursday April 30, 2009 at 12.00hours

### **Kasama Archbishop Spaita Retires**

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the request of the resignation of Kasama Archbishop His Grace the Most Reverend Monsignor James Mwewa Spaita who has reached the retirement age of 75.

The Holy Father's acceptance of the Archbishop's request is in accordance with Canon 401 & 1, of the Code of Canon Law, which allows serving bishops who attain the age of 75 to retire from active administration of a Catholic diocese.

This is contained in a statement released in Lusaka today by the Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, the Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi,

Archbishop Spaita was appointed Archbishop of Kasama on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1990 following the death of Archbishop Elias Mutale. Prior to this appointment, the Archbishop who was ordained priest on September 9, 1962, had served as Bishop of Mansa from February 1974. He was born on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1934 at Bombwe Village, Lubwe Parish, in Samfya District.

The Archbishop Emeritus for Kasama, Archbishop James Mwewa Spaita had held various portfolios of administration for Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC) besides making invariable contributions to the growth of the Church in Zambia, and the entire Roman Catholic Church.

The Church in Zambia shall always endeavour to consult his counsel in matters of faith and prosperity for the people of Zambia.

Meanwhile, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has appointed the Very Reverend Monsignor Ignatius Mwebe as the Apostolic Administrator "*ad nutum Sanctae Sedis*" of the Archdiocese of Kasama.

Fr. Mwebe who is at present the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Kasama, also served as Secretary General of the Zambia Episcopal Conference from 1994 to 2004 when he handed over to the current Secretary General, the Very Reverend Father Joseph Komakoma.

The apostolic nuncio has also announced that the Very Reverend Father Jules Roy, M.Afr., who is currently the Apostolic Administrator (for economics) for the Archdiocese of Kasama, will continue in that capacity until further notice.

**For more information contact:**

Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Komakoma  
ZEC Secretary General

Tel: 262613/262641 Cell: 0966295704

Email: [jkomakoma@zec.org.zm](mailto:jkomakoma@zec.org.zm)