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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vatican Appoints Apostolic Administrator for Mansa Diocese

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has today appointed the Very Reverend Father Michel Merizzi as the Apostolic Administrator for the Catholic Diocese of Mansa.

Father Merizzi, who until his appointment was the Parish Priest for Kawama/Twatasha Parishes in Ndola Diocese, belongs to the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) congregation. He has also worked in various Catholic parishes in the Mpika, Kasama and Mansa dioceses. Father Merizzi has on several occasions served at senior levels of the Missionaries of Africa for Canada and the United States of America.

He takes over from Bishop Aaron A. Chisha who has retired.

The Right Reverend Aaron Chisha, who was born in 1933 at Chipulya's Village, Kapatu Parish in Mporokoso District, Northern Province, was ordained priest on 29th August 1965 and was appointed Bishop of Mansa Diocese on 3rd November 1993.

Zambia Episcopal Conference (ZEC) president Bishop George Lungu has congratulated Father Michel on his appointment and thanked Bishop Chisha for his dedicated service to the people of Mansa Diocese and to all the Christians in the nation as a whole.

Under the Catholic Church establishment, the Apostolic Administrator has all the powers of a Bishop except the power to ordain priests. Father Merizzi will serve as Apostolic Administrator until Pope Benedict XVI appoints a substantive Bishop for the Diocese of Mansa.

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