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Subject: 05-18 BP for Meeting with Archbishop Burke
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my suggestions. thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST. LOUIS

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

1:50 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Oval Office

Karl Rove

I. PURPOSE

To meet with the newly installed leader of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Archbishop Raymond Burke

II. BACKGROUND

On December 2, 2003, Bishop Raymond Burke was named Archbishop of St. Louis, succeeding Justin Cardinal Rigali, who was appointed Archbishop of Philadelphia in July 2003. Archbishop Burke was installed in St. Louis on January 26, 2004.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has a registered Catholic population of 555,000, twenty-five percent of the overall geographic population within the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese has 92,225 students enrolled in 149 elementary schools, 30 high schools, and two colleges. The Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Charities is comprised of 14 agencies offering more than 100 programs to assist, on average, more than 100,000 poor and impoverished people annually.

In January, Archbishop Burke barred three Wisconsin politicians who support abortion rights from receiving Communion in his former diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and said he would bless Senator Kerry but deny him Communion because Kerry, a Catholic, voted to support abortion rights.

Archbishop Burke is in Washington making courtesy visits to members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

III. PARTICIPANTS

His Excellency Raymond Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis

White House Staff

Karl Rove, Senior Advisor

Tim Goeglein, Deputy Director, Office of Public Liaison

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Archbishop Burke arrives and is escorted to the Oval Office.
- You meet with Archbishop Burke.
- You conclude meeting and Archbishop Burke departs.

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENT

Biography of Archbishop Burke

BIOGRAPHY OF ARCHBISHOP RAYMOND BURKE

The Most Reverend Raymond Leo Burke was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, on b(6) b(6) the youngest of the six children of Thomas F. and Marie B. Burke. He attended high school at Holy Cross Seminary in La Crosse, Wisconsin, from 1962 to 1966, and also completed college courses there (1966 - 1968) before attending the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he studied as a Basselin Scholar (1968 -1971). He undertook his studies for ordination at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome (1971-1975) and was ordained to the priesthood by Pope Paul VI on June 29, 1975, at the Basilica of St. Peter.

Father Burke's first assignment was as associate rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse. In 1977 he took up the additional duty of teaching religion at Aquinas High School in La Crosse. In 1980 Father Burke returned to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. In April 1984, after completing his studies, he was named Moderator of the Curia and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of La Crosse.

In 1989 Father Burke returned to Rome when Pope John Paul II named him Defender of the Bond of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the first American to hold this position on the Church's highest court, which oversees marriage annulments. After five years in this post, the Holy Father appointed him Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse on December 10, 1994.

Bishop Burke was ordained to the episcopacy by Pope John Paul II on January 6, 1995, at the Basilica of St. Peter, and was installed in the Diocese of La Crosse on February 22, 1995.