

A statement from Archbishop Hughes on appointment of Fr. Jose Lavastida as Rector of Notre Dame Seminary

July 2, 2007

Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, as Chancellor of Notre Dame Seminary, announced the appointment of Father José Lavastida as Rector of Notre Dame Seminary today. Father Lavastida was the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee of the Board. The Executive Committee ratified this recommendation at a meeting on June 26.

In making the announcement, Archbishop Hughes not only welcomed the new rector warmly, but expressed great appreciation to Father Pat Williams for his service as Rector of Notre Dame Seminary for the past seven years. Father Williams successfully reopened Notre Dame Seminary one month after Hurricane Katrina and made it possible for the seminary to preserve its entire academic and formational year.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Father José Lavastida and his family later resettled in Puerto Rico where he went to school. After moving to the United States, he graduated from Louisiana State University in 1982, receiving a B.S. in Business Administration. He was accepted at Notre Dame Seminary in 1982 and completed his studies, Summa ***** Laude with a M.A. in Sacred Theology in 1987, the year that he was ordained a priest.

Father Lavastida served in two parishes before going to Rome to secure a Doctorate in Moral Theology at the Academia Alfonsiana, an Institute of Moral Theology of the Lateran University. He earned his doctorate in Moral Theology with a specialization in bioethics in June of 1998. Father Lavastida has been professor of Moral Theology and is currently Academic Dean of Notre Dame Seminary.

Father Lavastida will assume his post on July 31, 2007. Father Williams will work closely with him to provide for a continuity in the transition.