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**For Release**  
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**Statement by The Most Reverend John J. Myers,  
Archbishop of Newark,  
on the Appointment of The Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, SDV,  
as Eighth Bishop of Fall River**

“Today, with a mixture of great joy and true sadness, I congratulate Bishop Edgar da Cunha on his appointment as Bishop of Fall River.

“For some 36 years, Bishop da Cunha has been an integral part of the life of the Local Church of Newark – first as a seminarian of the Vocationist Community studying for priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary, then as a Vocationist Priest and Pastor ministering in several Newark parishes, and ultimately, as a brother Bishop assisting me in ministering to all of the people of the Newark Archdiocese.

“From my first meeting with him in 2001 shortly after I arrived in Newark as Archbishop, when he was pastor of St. Michael’s, just east of the Cathedral Basilica, I saw the heart of a pastor. That quality led me to ask then Pope, now Saint, John Paul II to appoint him as Auxiliary Bishop in 2003. Bishop da Cunha has continued to share that heart with the people of the Archdiocese of Newark throughout his episcopal ministry and leadership of our Evangelization and New Energies Parish initiatives, and most recently as Vicar General. He knows the people of God, knows the depth of their faith, and he knows the challenges of serving and leading in a Church with many cultural and ethnic traditions.

“I am confident that the priests, Religious and laity of the Diocese of Fall River will quickly come to appreciate his many gifts as he undertakes his pastoral office among them.

“But for those of you who play ‘football’ (soccer), I must give you fair warning: He may not be Neymar, but watch out for his elbows!

“I also want to join all in the Diocese of Fall River in thanking Bishop George Coleman, whom I’ve known since our time together at the North American College, for his 50 years of Priestly service and pastoral leadership in the Diocese. May the Lord grant him continued good health and length of days as he enters this new phase of his episcopal ministry.”

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