

Remarkable

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"and nothing has ever gone so smoothly."

A piece of the Cross

Right up until his death, Father Didier was brimming with life, and an eagerness to spread the Catholic faith and devotion to the Virgin Mary. Even before he entered the seminary, "He gave out Miraculous Medals like candy at a parade," said Leonard Didier. He said that fellow seminarians sometimes got annoyed with his son because when they went out to dinner, Darin would often spot somebody across the restaurant he thought was hurting, and disappear from the table for the rest of the meal to talk to them.

In 2000, during his first year at seminary, Father Didier prayed for something for himself, although he didn't know the cost of his request until later. At his son's wake, a fellow seminarian told Leonard Didier that Darin had confided to him, "I asked for a piece of the Cross. But I didn't ask for cancer."

But the cross he received was cancer—a rare form of lymphoma that attacked both his skin and lymph nodes. Among his diary entries found after his death was one that said, "I am only 31 years old. All I want is to say Mass, hear confessions and help people. Is that too much to ask?"

A week after Christmas 2004, Bishop Aquila, and Reverend Mr. Didier, then a deacon, arrived in France at the famous shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. The special pilgrimage was a testament to the love and confidence the two men shared in the Blessed Virgin Mary.

But earthly healing was not to be. According to his parents, Father Didier told a priest friend that he had received an interior answer to his prayer for healing.



ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL Aquila poses with Father Darin Didier.

The message was, "You can be healed if you want, or you can have a bigger mission in heaven," which he was given to understand would involve a role in helping to revitalize the priesthood.

Many people believe it is clear which choice he made.

"Although Father Darin served as a priest for only three months, his life and ministry was a tremendous blessing," Archbishop Aquila said. "He radiated the love of the Good Shepherd and was a wonderful spiritual father among the people."

"He was a great witness to the gift of life and the dignity of the human person," the archbishop continued. "His love for Mary was tender, and he knew his true identity as a son of the Father and Mary. His priestly life touched the hearts of all who met him and he brought the compassion of Christ to them."

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Connect

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one of those letters from a young child, in which he included his own drawing of the archbishop.

"It was sweet," she said.

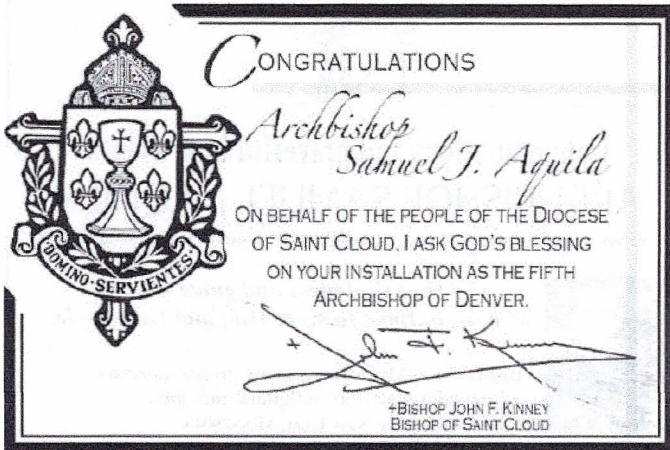
"(The archbishop) reads all of his mail," she continued, and pointed to several folders filled with letters.

Cards and letters may be mailed to:

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, 1300 S. Steele St., Denver, Colo. 80210.

There are also two online avenues where the faithful may share welcome greetings and prayers with Denver's new shepherd: an online guest book at www.archden.org/aquila or the archdiocese's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseofDenver.

One can also follow news of the archbishop, and the archdiocese in general, at www.twitter.com/DCRegister.



With great warmth and joy the members of the Denver chapter of Legatus welcome Archbishop Aquila back to the Archdiocese!

Since the Denver World Youth Day in 1993, this archdiocese has been greatly blessed by the Holy Spirit. He has touched our lives and touched this city. The Denver Legatus chapter continues to be the fastest growing and most active chapter around the country. We take our lives as Catholics very seriously and are so proud to be in a city that has created the Augustine Institute, FOCUS, Endow, Lighthouse, Families of Character and many more organizations serving God. Denver is a wonderful example of Catholic leadership and yet we have only just started this journey. Our chapter's theme this year is a "Call to Arms." Our board, our programming, our events, and our chaplain are all focused on re-igniting our leadership to fight for our faith.

We are excited and thrilled at your appointment. May God continue to bless you in everything you do and once again, welcome back!

