New Louisiana Bishop Installed

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP) — Nearly 200 priests, bishops and archbishops joined Tuesday night to celebrate the assurance of his heartfelt sympathy and his unity with you all in prayer.

The Most Rev. William Benedict Friend's second Mass of Installation is to be celebrated tonight in Shreveport's St. John Birchmans Cathedral.

Apostolic Delegate Pio Laghe told to the crowd that packed St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for Tuesday night's mass:

“Pope John Paul II, being saddened by the news of the destruction caused by floods in Louisiana, asks that you convey to the people the assurance of his heartfelt sympathy and his unity with you all in prayer.

“The holy father begs God to strengthen all the suffering.”

Methodist bishops, an Episcopal priest, and a rabbi who read from the Old Testament, joined the service.

“It was a nice ecumenical gesture,” said the Right Rev. Willis Henton, bishop of the western diocese of the United Methodist Church in Louisiana.