

**BRIEF REMARKS FOR POST-VESPERS DINNER AT INSTALLATION OF BISHOP DEGROOD AS  
BISHOP OF SIOUX FALLS  
FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

Your Excellency Archbishop Hebda, Your Excellency Bishop-Elect DeGrood, Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers, Dear Consecrated Persons, My Dear Friends,

I thank all our speakers for their remarks. Bishop-Elect Degrood, you obviously have the support of your brother bishops and the clergy of this Diocese, mindful of the task that lies ahead. Tomorrow will be a beautiful day for this Diocese. I encourage you to look forward in hope to the good things God has planned for you.

More than fifteen years ago, Saint John Paul II, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores gregis*, reflecting on this ministry of the Bishop, wrote: **“Only by the light and consolation born of the Gospel can a bishop succeed in keeping his own hope alive (cf. Rom 15:4) and in nourishing the hope of those entrusted to his pastoral care. He must therefore model himself on the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Hope, who believed in the fulfilment of the Lord’s words (cf. Lk 1:45). Relying on the Word of God and holding firmly to hope, which like a sure and steadfast anchor reaches to the heavens (cf. Heb 6:18-20), the bishop stands in the midst of the Church as a vigilant sentinel, a courageous prophet, a credible witness and a faithful servant of Christ, ‘Our Hope of Glory’ (cf. Col 1:27), thanks to whom ‘death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying nor pain any more’ (cf. Rev 21:4)”** (St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Gregis*, 22 October 2003, 3)

With these sentiments, I ask that the Lord bless all gathered here this evening and that there be a great outpouring of the Spirit upon the Diocese of Sioux Falls. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father +, Son +, and Holy Spirit +, come down upon you and remain with you forever.