

**REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
AT THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND SOLEMN INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND DANIEL FELTON
AS THE TENTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF DULUTH
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
DULUTH, MINNESOTA
MAY 20, 2021**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Your Excellency Bishop Ricken, Your Excellency Archbishop Schnurr, Your Excellency Bishop-Elect Felton, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Duluth:

As the Easter Season is drawing to a close, I greet you in the name of Pope Francis, expressing his spiritual closeness on this joyful occasion in the life of the Diocese of Duluth, following the sudden death of Bishop Paul Sirba in 2019, as the Reverend Daniel Felton is consecrated as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Duluth, having distinguished himself both as a pastor and as the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in the Diocese of Green Bay.

Your Excellency, the Holy Father has appointed you to care for the people of Duluth, not only by governing them and sanctifying them through the sacraments, but also by teaching them with Apostolic boldness. During the Chrism Mass this year, Pope Francis said:

“But we are not among those who shrink back (hypostoles)” (Heb 10:39). ... We are not scandalized, because Jesus himself was not scandalized by seeing that his joyful preaching of salvation to the poor was not received wholeheartedly, but amid the shouts and threats of those who refused to hear his word. ... We are not scandalized because Jesus was not scandalized by having to give sight to the blind amid people who closed their eyes in order not to see, or looked the other way. ... We are not scandalized because the preaching of the Gospel is effective not because of our eloquent words but because of the power of the cross (cf. 1 Cor 1:17).

The way we embrace the cross in our preaching of the Gospel – with deeds and, when necessary, with words – makes two things clear. That the sufferings that come from the Gospel are not ours, but rather “the sufferings of Christ in us” (2 Cor 1:5), and that “we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants of all for the love of Jesus” (2 Cor 4:5).”

Your Excellency, as you begin your episcopal ministry and mission to the people of Duluth, cling to the Cross of Christ and proclaim it boldly among your people for the Cross is the instrument of our salvation.

Bishop-elect Felton, we thank you for accepting the call to serve as Chief Shepherd of this Local Church. We also publicly express our confidence that as you humbly yet insistently teach, govern and sanctify in the example of the one Good Shepherd, you will be a prophet, witness and servant of Christian hope (*Pastores Gregis*, 3) for the flock entrusted to your pastoral care and also for the community at large. May the prayerful intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the Patroness of this Diocese, continually encourage you in your daily episcopal ministry.

At this time, I would like to thank Father James Bissonette for his service as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese during these difficult times following the death of Bishop Sirba.

And now, it is my pleasure to read for you an English translation of the Apostolic Letter, by which our Holy Father appointed His Excellency Daniel Felton as Bishop of the Diocese of Duluth.