

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND LUIS MIGUEL ROMERO FERNANDEZ, M.ID.
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE,
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT AGNES, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, JUNE 29, 2020**

Your Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, Your Excellency John Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, Your Excellency Bishops Emeritus Murphy, Auxiliary Bishops Wcela, Dunne, Zglejszewski, Henning and Coyle, My Brothers Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Rockville Centre, Dear Friends in Christ:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Father Luis Miguel Romero Fernandez, is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry here as Auxiliary Bishop, working in close collaboration with his brother Auxiliary Bishops and the Chief Shepherd of this Local Church, Bishop John Barres.

Father Romero has distinguished himself as a scientist and as a priest, serving as a missionary in Latin America for more than 25 years, principally in Bolivia and Chile. An Apostle is one who is sent, and it is fitting that on this Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul that he is consecrated as a bishop who will preach the Gospel, with a true missionary spirit, wherever he is sent.

Your Excellency, just last year, our Holy Father Pope Francis said: **“The Lord is asking you to be a gift wherever you are, just as you are, with everyone around you. He is asking you not simply to go through life, but to give life; not to complain about life, but to share in the tears of all who suffer. Courage! The Lord expects great things from you. He is also expecting ... you to have the courage to set out and go wherever dignity and hope are most lacking, where all too many people still live without the joy of the Gospel. ‘But must I go alone?’ No. That is wrong. If we think about doing missionary work here like business organizations, with a business plan, that is wrong. The Holy Spirit is the protagonist. Go with the Holy Spirit. The Lord will not leave you alone in bearing witness; you will discover that the Holy Spirit has gone before you and prepared the way for you.”** (October 1, 2019, Homily at Vespers for the beginning of the Missionary Month)

The Holy Father has every confidence that you will be a gift to the people of Rockville Centre, especially to the growing Hispanic community, and that the Holy Spirit, who guided the Apostolic Ministry of Saints Peter and Paul, will be the driving force of your ministry.

And now, with great joy, I will read the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.