

**REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
AT THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND SOLEMN INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM E. KOENIG
AS THE TENTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON
CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
JULY 13, 2021**

Your Eminences Cardinal Dolan and Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop William Lori, Your Excellency Bishop William Malooly, Your Excellency Bishop John Barres, Dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Wilmington, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to join with you today in the beautiful Cathedral of Saint Peter as Monsignor William Koenig is consecrated as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington. I thank Bishop Francis Malooly for his dedicated service to this Diocese over these past thirteen years. Today a new era begins for this historic Diocese; it is a “crossing over” to something beautiful that the Lord has prepared. The people of Wilmington receive a new shepherd to guide them, nurture them, and protect them.

Your Excellency, Bishop-elect Koenig, you have demonstrated your great love for the priesthood of Jesus Christ through years of outstanding service to the Diocese of Rockville Centre, particularly as Rector of Saint Agnes Cathedral and of late as Vicar for Clergy. I am sure that the people of Rockville Centre and Bishop Barres are filled with joy as one of their own priests is elevated to the Office of Bishop, grateful for your many years of service.

It is a glorious day for the Diocese of Wilmington. Today is the memorial of St. Henry, a German king, who wrote: **“For present glory is fleeting and meaningless, while it is possessed, unless in it we can glimpse something of heaven’s eternity. But God’s mercy toward the human race provided a useful remedy when he made the reward for earthly existence a share in our heavenly country.”**

It is our hope and prayer that through your ministry, the People of God may have a glimpse of eternity and might experience the mercy and compassion of God along their pilgrim journey through the closeness of their Shepherd. As you begin your mission, you are well-aware of the urgent task of evangelization. Therefore, I place before you the words of our Holy Father: **“The outcome of our pastoral**

work, evangelization and mission does not depend on the material means and resources at our disposal, or on the number of our events and activities, but on the centrality of compassion: this is one of the unique things that we as Church can offer our brothers and sisters. Christ's kenosis is the supreme expression of the Father's compassion. Christ's Church is the Church of compassion, and that begins at home." (Pope Francis, Address to SEDAC, 24 January 2019)

Now, it is my pleasure to read an English translation of the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.