

**REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
AT THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF  
THE MOST REVEREND GREGORY GORDON  
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LAS VEGAS  
SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY REDEEMER  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
JULY 16, 2021**

Your Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Your Excellency Archbishop Jose Gomez Archbishop of Los Angeles, Your Excellency Bishop George Thomas, Your Excellency Bishop Emeritus Joseph Pepe, Your Excellency Bishop Emeritus Daniel Walsh, Your Excellency Auxiliary Bishop-elect Gordon, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Las Vegas, Dear Friends:

As the personal and official representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in the United States of America, I am truly pleased to be with you as Reverend Monsignor Gregory Gordon is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry as the First Auxiliary Bishop of Las Vegas and close collaborator to Bishop Thomas. Monsignor Gordon has distinguished himself, not only as Vicar General and until recently as Pastor of St. Anne Church, but also through his dedication to the Holy See through his service at the Nunciature under my predecessors.

Jesus Himself was driven into the desert before He began His public ministry in the Spirit. Your Excellency Bishop-Elect Gordon, as you begin your episcopal ministry in Las Vegas, which is experiencing rapid growth in its Catholic population, your zeal for your mission and for pastoral ministry must be guided by the Spirit, so that you may overcome the many challenges to evangelization. One way of overcoming these challenges is by getting to know your flock personally. As you begin your mission, I place before you the words of our Holy Father, which he spoke a few years ago to those to be consecrated as bishops:

**“In the Church entrusted to you, be faithful custodians and dispensers of the mysteries of Christ. As the Father has placed you at the head of His family, always follow the example of the Good Shepherd, Who knows His sheep: behind every document there is a person. Behind every letter that you receive,**

**there is a person. May these people be known by you and may you be capable of knowing them.”** (Pope Francis, Vatican Basilica, Conferral of Episcopal Ordination, 19 March 2016)

Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Under her protection and by her intercession, may you come to know the true needs of the flock and open others to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, helping them to know the love of Christ, the Good Shepherd, and His Immaculate Mother. Finally, may the Guardian Angels also watch over you and the People of the Diocese of Las Vegas as you assist Bishop Thomas in his ministry.

At this time, it is with great pleasure that I read for you the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.