

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM BYRNE
AS TENTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN MASSACHUSETTS
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MICHAEL, SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020**

Your Eminence Cardinal O'Malley, Your Eminences Cardinal Dolan, Cardinal Wuerl and Cardinal Gregory, Your Excellency Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Your Excellency Bishop McManus, Your Excellency Bishop Emeritus Timothy McDonnell, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Springfield in Massachusetts, Dear Friends: to each of you, warm greetings and peace in this holy season of Advent.

In this Advent season of joyful expectation and on this Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church, who the sacred liturgy offers to us as a model of "outstanding dedication to perfect self-denial and love of the Cross", the Reverend William Byrne will be consecrated as a bishop and installed as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Massachusetts., having distinguished himself as a gifted author, social media personality, campus minister, and Missionary of Mercy.

On the First Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis preached: **"Knowing that the hearts of his disciples were troubled, Jesus "once more" called the Twelve and told them "what was to happen to him" (v. 32). We have just heard it ourselves: the third announcement of his passion, death and resurrection. This is *the road taken by the Son of God. The road taken by the Servant of the Lord. Jesus identifies himself with this road, so much so that he himself is the road. "I am the way" (Jn 14:6), he says. This way, and none other.*"** (Pope Francis, Homily for the First Sunday of Advent, 28 November 2020)

Your Excellency, as you begin your episcopal ministry and mission to the people of Springfield, stay on this road, the road of a servant, even if it is a difficult one at times. It is upon this road of the Suffering Servant that you will be more configured to Christ and lead your people to their destination which is Heaven itself. Saint John of the Cross, whose feast we celebrate today, reminds us: **"In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God."**

Bishop-elect Byrne, 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, no. 3) for the flock entrusted to your pastoral care and also for the community at large. May the prayerful intercession of Our Lady of Mercy, Saint John of the Cross and Saint Michael the Archangel, Patron of this Diocese, continually encourage you in your daily episcopal ministry.

At this time, I would like to thank Bishop Robert McManus for his service as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese and Archbishop Rozanski for his service as Ordinary of the Diocese until his transfer to Saint Louis.

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 William Byrne as Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield.