

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION
AND INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN C. IFFERT
AS ELEVENTH BISHOP OF COVINGTON
CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION
COVINGTON, KENTUCKY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

Your Eminences Cardinal Rigali and Cardinal Cupich, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Kurtz, Your Excellency Bishop Foys, Your Excellency Bishop McGovern, Your Excellency Bishop-Elect Iffert, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Covington, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon in Covington in this magnificent Basilica in honor of Our Lady of the Assumption as Monsignor John Iffert is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and is installed as the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Covington, having proven himself as an able shepherd, especially in the care of priests, in the Diocese of Belleville, serving as Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Caseyville.

Your Excellency, Bishop-Elect Iffert, you have chosen the Memorial of St. Jerome, Cardinal and Doctor of the Roman Church and a true lover of Sacred Scripture, as the date of your episcopal consecration. In his Apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus*, Pope Francis wrote pointed out, using Jerome's own words, that he lived for peace, writing:

“Yet he lived for peace: ‘I wish for peace as much as others; and not only do I wish for it, I ask for it. But the peace which I want is the peace of Christ; a true peace, a peace without rancor, a peace which does not involve war, a peace which will not reduce opponents but will unite friends.’

Today more than ever, our world needs the medicine of mercy and communion. Here I would like to say once again: let us offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion. *By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (Jn 13:35).* This is what Jesus, with intense prayer, asked of the Father: *‘that they may all be one... in us... so that the world may believe’ (Jn 17:21).*” (Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter *Scripturae Sacrae Affectus*, 30 September 2020)

Bishop-Elect Iffert, through his intercession, may you bring the peace of Christ to the clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese of Covington.

Now, allow me to thank Bishop Roger Foys for his service as Bishop of the Diocese of Covington, since 2002, leading the Diocese through difficult days to this new era in its life. Your Excellency, you have our heartfelt gratitude.

Bishop-Elect Iffert, as you begin your episcopal ministry, I commend you to Our Lady of the Assumption and to St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse and protector of the Holy Family, trusting that in their hands your ministry may flourish and bear fruit in abundance.

And now, I will read for you the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.