

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND MARK ECKMAN
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
JANUARY 11, 2022**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia Nelson Perez, Your Excellency Bishop David Zubik, Your Excellency William Walterscheid, Your Excellency William Winter, My Brother Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Bishop-Elect Mark Eckman is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Bishop-elect Eckman will continue to be a close collaborator of the Chief Shepherd of this Local Church, Bishop Zubik, having already proven himself as an able pastor in his thirty-six years of priestly service in this beloved city as a high school teacher and chaplain, as episcopal vicar for clergy, and as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Bethel.

Bishop-elect Eckman, you have chosen as your episcopal motto – “To serve in Faith and Charity.” It is fitting. This is exactly what the Holy Father expects of Bishops. Recently, in addressing the Italian Episcopal Conference, the Holy Father spoke of the “Beatitudes for Bishops”. I place the words of just one of these beatitudes before you:

“Blessed is the bishop who considers his ministry a service and not a power, making meekness his strength, giving to all the right of citizenship in his own heart, so as to inhabit the land promised to the meek.” (POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, 22 NOVEMBER 2021)

Dear Auxiliary Bishop-elect Eckman, you have already made a significant contribution to this Diocese, but now the Holy Father has asked you to assist Bishop Zubik, calling you to the Order of Bishop. With great generosity, you have accepted this calling, which in the present day is filled not only with many joys but also with challenges.

Therefore, we commend you to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and to St. Paul, the Patron of this Cathedral, that you may be tireless in your ministry as you serve the people of Pittsburgh with faith and charity.

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