

**REMARKS OF CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS ZINKULA  
AS ARCHBISHOP OF DUBUQUE  
NATIVITY CHURCH – DUBUQUE, IOWA  
OCTOBER 18, 2023**

To my brother archbishops and bishops who are gathered here; dear priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

Today, the faithfulness of the Lord is being shown once more in providing for the people of this Archdiocese a new shepherd to govern and lead you in the name of Christ – a bishop whose motto and way of life is, “Thy will be done.” It gives me great pleasure to be present among you in order to represent the Holy Father Pope Francis, who would want you to know of his spiritual closeness and paternal affection for all of you.

I know that it is also a special joy for Archbishop-elect Zinkula, and for you, that he is “coming home” to the Archdiocese where he was ordained 33 years ago, after having served the good people of the Diocese of Davenport for the last six years.

I am grateful to Archbishop Jackels for his ten years as the shepherd of this local Church, and I want to assure him of our prayers for his good health and many blessings. Also, to Bishop Pates: you have had a very busy retirement! In four years as a “retired” bishop, you have been the Apostolic Administrator for three different dioceses! Bishop Pates, thank you for your willingness to continue to serve joyfully in the Lord’s vineyard, and for the active and loving care that you have given to the people of this Archdiocese during the past several months.

Archbishop Zinkula, your entire life has been a gradual and rich preparation for the ministry that you are about to undertake. From your early years of formation in the family, to the discipline involved in athletics, to your academic achievements in a variety of fields; and then through decades of priestly ministry as a pastor, worker in canon law, and seminary rector before becoming a bishop.

By embracing the synodal process initiated by Pope Francis, you have experienced, together with your people, the fruits of deep and careful listening, while engaging in communal discernment of the path on which the Holy Spirit is leading the Church. We are glad that the Holy Spirit’s path has led you here today.

And so now, I will read the Papal Decree appointing you Archbishop of Dubuque.