

**REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
THE MOST REVEREND MARIO DORSONVILLE-RODRÍGUEZ  
AS FIFTH BISHOP OF HOUMA-THIBODAux  
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES  
HOUMA, LOUISIANA  
MARCH 29, 2023**

To begin, I would like to welcome Cardinal Gregory and Cardinal Wuerl, and all my brother bishops who are here in such great number, including Archbishop Broglio, the President of the Bishops' Conference. Archbishop Fabre, thank you for your service to this Diocese from 2013 to 2022, and thank you for the support that you have given during this time of transition, along with Archbishop Aymond, the Metropolitan Archbishop of this Province. Welcome also to the other former Bishops of this Diocese: Bishop Sam Jacobs and Bishop Michael Jarrell.

Greetings to the many priests who are here, with a special "thank you" to Fr. P.J. Madden, who has served, with great energy and a joyful spirit, as Diocesan Administrator since March of last year.

Dear Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Members of the Faithful; Dear Friends: it is a joy for me to represent the Holy Father as we celebrate the installation of Bishop Mario Dorsonville as the 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux. From Colombia, where he was born; to Washington, D.C., where he has served since the 1990s and where I have gotten to know him; Bishop Dorsonville has now found a new *home* in *Houma*.

Bishop Dorsonville, I know that you will make a home here, because you will find in this Diocese many opportunities to continue your ministry as shepherd. You will reach out to people in need, as you have done in your work with the Spanish Catholic Center, Catholic Charities, and more recently with Migration and Refugee Services as a Bishop. You will continue to listen to the laity, who have many gifts and much love for the Church. You will welcome the collaboration of deacons and consecrated religious. To your priests, you will be both a brother and a father. With your background as a spiritual director for seminarians and mentor for young priests, you will nurture priestly vocations. And in all of this, you will follow a synodal way: walking together with the People of God on a shared journey of faith.

Being close to the people is always a good way of being a bishop. It is the way that Jesus was: with his disciples, with those who supported his ministry, and with the many people in all of their needs. Here in "Bayou Country", there is another good reason to stay close to your people: *they can protect you from the alligators!*

"Be not afraid," Bishop Dorsonville! Congratulations to you, and congratulations to the people of this Diocese. With much joy, I will now read the Papal Decree appointing you as Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux.