

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REVEREND GERARD W. BATTERSBY  
AS ELEVENTH BISHOP OF LA CROSSE  
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKMAN  
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN – MAY 20, 2024**

Your Excellency Bishop Callahan and all of my brother bishops; dear priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

As the Holy Father’s representative to the Church in the United States, it is my privilege to convey to you the spiritual closeness of Pope Francis as we celebrate the installation of Bishop Gerard Battersby as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse.

Bishop Callahan, thank you for your service to the Church during more than 16 years as a bishop, and more than 13 years as the Bishop of this Diocese. May God bless you with good health and joy in your retirement.

Bishop Battersby, thank you for your “yes” to this new call to come to west-central Wisconsin in order to shepherd the people of this local Church. Your closeness to the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – a source of accompaniment and strength – will continue to sustain you in your ministry here. No doubt, the many lessons that you have learned in your parish work, in the formation of seminarians, and in your seven years as Auxiliary Bishop have equipped you to be the Ordinary of La Crosse. You also arrive in this local Church with a commitment to listening to the people of God, and to discerning with them the paths on which the Holy Spirit is leading this Church. As you and your people remain, like Christ, “in the bosom of the Father” (*in sinu Patris*), you will continue to reveal God’s mercy and love through your shared mission of evangelization. As Pope Francis has said:

“Jesus, who goes towards wounded humanity, shows us the face of the Father... [He] goes out, so that the Word he has preached may reach, touch and heal people. By doing this, he reveals to us that God...is a Father filled with love who makes himself close to us”  
(ANGELUS, 4 FEBRUARY 2024).

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we celebrate today as Mother of the Church, intercede for you and for the people of the Diocese of La Crosse, that together you may experience the Father's love.

Now, I will read the Pope's letter of appointment.