

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REV. RICHARD G. HENNING  
AS TENTH BISHOP AND SEVENTH ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON  
CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY CROSS – BOSTON, MA  
OCTOBER 31, 2024**

Good afternoon!

Your Eminence Cardinal O’Malley, my brother cardinals, archbishops, and bishops; distinguished guests; dear priests, deacons, consecrated women and men; members of the faithful; dear friends:

Pope Francis has reminded us: “Bishops should be close to God, to their priests, to each other and to all the People of God.”<sup>1</sup>

These words of the Holy Father, for all their simplicity, express a truth that, when followed, helps the Gospel of Jesus Christ to flourish in a diocese. Cardinal O’Malley, in your 40 years as a bishop, and in 21 years as the Archbishop of Boston, thank you for all the ways in which you have been close to God’s people.

Archbishop-designate Henning, on behalf of the Holy Father, thank you also for your closeness to God’s people as a bishop, and for your pledge to continue to express this closeness in your new ministry in the Archdiocese of Boston. I am confident that your experiences as a pastor and leader will help you in your mission here. But even more fundamentally, what will guide you is what you have come to know from your own encounter with God. It is there, in that personal encounter, that you are able to receive the Lord’s love, kindness, understanding, and mercy. This is the God that you will reveal to those whom you serve here.

You begin your mission in this Archdiocese close to the beginning of the Jubilee Year of 2025. The theme of this Jubilee is *Spes Non Confundit*: “Hope does not disappoint” (*Rom 5:5*). Let this Jubilee be a source of grace for you. Together with your people, present your hope to God, and you will not be disappointed.

With joy, then, I will now read an English translation of the official letter of appointment from the Pope.

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, Morning Meditation in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*, 20 September 2019.