

**WELCOME OF
THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD HENNING
AS COADJUTOR BISHOP OF PROVIDENCE
CATHEDRAL OF STS. PETER AND PAUL
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
JANUARY 26, 2023**

Your Eminences Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Cardinal Sean O'Malley; Your Excellency Bishop Thomas Tobin; Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Evans; Metropolitan Archbishop Blair; My Brother Archbishops and Bishops; Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Providence; Dear Friends:

In this beautiful Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, I am happy to join you as Bishop Richard Henning is formally received and welcomed as Coadjutor Bishop of Providence. Bishop Henning has distinguished himself in the Diocese of Rockville Centre: as a seminary formator, educator and leader, and a shepherd with a keen eye toward evangelization. His special concern for those who speak Spanish and his use of the new media are also praiseworthy. In all of these capacities, he relates well to the People of God. As Coadjutor, Bishop Henning will collaborate closely with Bishop Tobin in ministry to the Diocese, until the day arrives when he will become the ninth Bishop of Providence. Thank you, Bishop Tobin, for welcoming Bishop Henning, for sharing your ministry with him, and for helping him learn about the life of this local Church. Thank you, as well, for your many years of service in the Church. In July you will celebrate fifty years as a priest. You have been a bishop for more than thirty years. And you have shepherded this Diocese for nearly 18 years. May God bless you!

Allow me, as well, to congratulate Auxiliary Bishop Robert Evans on his retirement, and to honor him for nearly fifty years of ministry as a priest and bishop in the Diocese of Providence. Bishop Evans: thank you! And may God bless you with good health and joy in your retirement.

We are grateful to Bishop John Barres, with whom Bishop Henning has served in the Diocese of Rockville Centre the last 4½ years. Bishop Henning's vast experience, first as a priest of that Diocese, then as an Auxiliary Bishop, has prepared him well for his ministry in Rhode Island. Bishop Henning: in your episcopal motto, you cite the words of Jesus: "Put out into the deep." You are someone who loves the water. I know that you will continue to go out into the "deep water" to draw many people into the boat of the Church. You will surely follow the advice that Pope Francis gave when he quoted the "Beatitudes for a Bishop":

“Blessed is the bishop who does not shut himself up in government buildings, who does not become a bureaucrat more attentive to statistics than to faces, to procedures than to stories, who seeks to fight alongside man for God’s dream of justice because the Lord, encountered in the silence of daily prayer, will nourish him.” (POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, 22 NOVEMBER 2021)

Bishop Henning: your commitment to listening to the People of God, and learning from them, will equip you to *lead* with the heart of a true shepherd – with a heart conformed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and dedicated to revealing the Father’s love and mercy.

And now, I will read for you the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.