

**SOLEMN CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF
BISHOP-ELECT DONALD DEGROOD
AS THE NINTH BISHOP OF SIOUX FALLS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020, 2:00 P.M.
ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Your Excellency Bishop Swain, Your Excellency Bishop Designate Donald DeGroot, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you here in this venerable Cathedral of St. Joseph for the Consecration and Installation of the ninth Bishop of Sioux Falls, His Excellency Donald DeGroot. I want to express my gratitude to Bishop Paul Swain for his many years of service to the Catholics here in South Dakota as Ordinary of Sioux Falls for more than thirteen years. Your Excellency may the good Lord, who is never outdone in generosity, continue to bless you and keep you.

Dear Bishop-Elect DeGroot, your appointment was announced on the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Although the responsibilities of the episcopal ministry are great, we are consoled by the words of the Virgin to Juan Diego:

Listen and let it penetrate your heart ... do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?

Yes. You have everything you need. You don't need to acquire any "Sioux veneers." Just roll up your sleeves and get to work. Although there are many responsibilities in the episcopal ministry, your experience, especially in your care for priests, in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis has prepared you for this vocation. As a "farm boy", you have a solid work ethic which will serve you well in the vast diocese. You will also discover that the soil here is fertile for cultivating vocations and new disciples of the Lord Jesus.

The Holy Father wants a missionary church, and His Holiness is counting on you to lead the people of Sioux Falls to be both disciples and missionaries, following the example of the Virgin of Guadalupe, who serves as reminder that God never ceases to visit His People, and when He does visit them, he brings them joy and salvation!

We pray through the intercession of the Holy Virgin and through her Beloved Spouse, Saint Joseph, the patron of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, that you will help lead this family of faith on its pilgrim journey.

And now, with great joy, I will read for you a translation of the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.