

**RITE OF RECEPTION OF  
MOST REVEREND ALBERTO ROJAS AS  
COADJUTOR BISHOP OF SAN BERNARDINO  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020, AT 12 NOON  
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHINO HILLS**

Your Excellency Bishop Gerald Barnes, Your Excellency Bishop Alberto Rojas, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop of Los Angeles Jose Gomez, Bishop Emeritus Rutilo del Riego Jañez, Dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in San Bernardino, Dear Friends:

In this beautiful Church of St. Paul the Apostle, I am happy to join you as His Excellency Alberto Rojas is received as Coadjutor Bishop of San Bernardino. Bishop Rojas has distinguished himself as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Chicago and as a member of the USCCB Subcommittees for Hispanic Affairs and Catholic Home Missions.

I want to acknowledge the wonderful ministry of Bishop Barnes during the past twenty-four years here, first as an auxiliary bishop, and as Ordinary since 1995. During his tenure San Bernardino has blossomed into the sixth largest Diocese in the United States. Recognizing the need to find a successor given the passing of years, Bishop Barnes requested a coadjutor bishop. It takes both humility and courage to ask for help, and Bishop Barnes has shown both. In asking for a Coadjutor Bishop Barnes has placed the love of his flock and the evangelizing mission of the Church before his own interests, offering us a model of pastoral charity. Your Excellency, thank you.

Bishop Rojas, we welcome you to this beautiful Diocese of San Bernardino. Your cultural background and your pastoral skills bring great hope and joy to this young but increasingly diverse community. With your youthful spirit, energy, and ability to empathize, I am confident that this flock will have an ardent and gentle shepherd for many years, as you also learn from the wisdom of Bishop Barnes.

The *Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops* reads: **“When circumstances suggest, the Holy See may appoint a coadjutor Bishop. The diocesan Bishop should welcome him gladly in a spirit of faith and should promote an effective communion by virtue of their joint episcopal responsibility, establishing**

**an authentic partnership which, with a coadjutor, should be particularly cordial and fraternal for the good of the diocese.”**

I am sure that this is the type of reception you will receive from Bishop Barnes here in San Bernardino – a reception that is filled with joy, gladness, and a true spirit of fraternity and cooperation. Indeed, you will be stronger together as you bring the joy of the Gospel to this Diocese and its people, remembering your episcopal motto: El amor de Dios es todo – God’s love is all we need.

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