

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND JEROME FEUDJIO
AS BISHOP OF ST. THOMAS IN THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS
CATHEDRAL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS
APRIL 17, 2021**

Your Eminence Cardinal Gregory, Your Eminence Cardinal O'Malley, Your Eminence Cardinal Wuerl, Your Excellency Bishop Bevard, Bishop-Elect Feudjio, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Family of God in this Diocese of Saint Thomas in the US Virgin Islands: to all of you, I bring the warm greetings of the Holy Father on this happy occasion.

Your Excellency Bishop-Elect Feudjio, I am truly pleased to be with you and the people of St. Thomas as you are ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begin your episcopal ministry here as Ordinary, having worked as a close collaborator with Cardinal O'Malley, Bishop Elliott Thomas, Bishop George Murry, and most recently with Bishop Bevard, serving in nearly every key post in this Diocese, including Vicar General and Rector of this Cathedral. Having left your native Cameroon to serve as a missionary here, you understand the critical need for a renewed missionary and evangelical effort.

Although you have assisted the Shepherds of this Diocese, the Holy Father has now called you to be the Chief Shepherd here and asks you to take risks in imitating the Heart of the Redeemer. Pope Francis said: **“Such is a heart that seeks out. A heart that does not set aside times and spaces as private. Woe to those shepherds who privatize their ministry! It is not jealous of its legitimate quiet time, even that, and never demands that it be left alone. A shepherd after the heart of God does not protect his own comfort zone. He is not worried about protecting his good name, but will be slandered as Jesus was. Unafraid of criticism, he is disposed to take risks in seeking to imitate his Lord.”** (Homily, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, Jubilee for Priests, 3 June 2016)

As we continue to rejoice in our Risen Lord and confident in the gifts and talents that God has bestowed upon you, I commend you to Saints Peter and Paul, who preached the Gospel to the ends of the earth and who bore witness to the Lord, offering their lives as a pleasing holocaust at Rome, trusting that you will show forth to the flock in St. Thomas that mercy which flows from the Heart of the Redeemer.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to Bishop Herbert Bevard who guided this Diocese faithfully from 2008 until his retirement last year. Your Excellency, thank you!

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