

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND MICHAEL G. McGOVERN
AS THE NINTH BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE,
THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER, JULY 22, 2020**

Your Eminence Cardinal Cupich, Your Excellency Bishop Braxton, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Belleville, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you today in this venerable Cathedral of St. Peter as Father Michael McGovern, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who has distinguished himself in his service to the Cardinal Archbishops of Chicago and to the People of God, most recently at St. Mary Parish in Lake Forest and St. Raphael the Archangel in Old Mill Creek, is consecrated as the Ninth Bishop of Belleville.

Your Excellency, Bishop-Elect McGovern, although you are a diocesan priest, your fondness for St. Ignatius of Loyola and his special charism of discernment is no secret. As you assume the role of shepherd, I ask, that in the spirit of St. Ignatius, you allow yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit so that you may bring the People of God in Belleville the consolation that comes from the joy of knowing the Lord.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* (30, 33), Pope Francis invited every particular church to enter into a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform so that the missionary impulse of the Church might be more focused, generous, and fruitful, adding that the important thing is “to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters, and especially under the leadership of the bishops, in a wise and realistic pastoral discernment.”

As you rely on the People of God and the Holy Spirit to help you recognize the signs of the times, to interpret them in light of the Faith, and to choose the path forward as you lead this Church of Belleville as its Chief Shepherd, know of our prayers and our profound esteem.

We entrust you to St. Mary Magdalene, who was the first to announce the joyful news of the Lord’s Resurrection, to the Madonna della Strada, and to St. Ignatius as you begin your episcopal ministry. St. Ignatius would often write to the Jesuit missionaries exhorting them to “Go and set the World on Fire.” May you do just that.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express our profound gratitude to Bishop Edward Braxton for his twenty-five years of episcopal service, fifteen of which were spent shepherding this local church. Your Excellency, thank you!

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