

**INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND EDWARD MALESIC
AS THE 12TH BISHOP OF CLEVELAND
THE FEAST OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Schnurr, Your Excellencies Bishop Pilla, and Bishop Gries, Your Excellency Archbishop Perez, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Cleveland, Dear Friends:

I am truly happy to join with you today here in the venerable Diocese of Cleveland, now more than 170 years old, on this beautiful feast of the Triumph of the Cross, as His Excellency Edwards Malesic is solemnly installed as the 12th Bishop of Cleveland, having served the flock of the Church in Greensburg with dedication and pastoral zeal.

It was just three years ago, I was here to install Archbishop Perez as the 11th Bishop of Cleveland, and I thank him for his service to the Diocese. I also thank Father Donald Oleksiak who has served as Administrator of the Diocese since the departure of Archbishop Perez.

Two years ago, on this Feast, Pope Francis said:

Our victory is the cross of Jesus, victory over our enemy, the ancient serpent, the Great Accuser. We have been saved by the cross, by the fact that Jesus chose to sink to the very lowest point, but with the power of divinity.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself. Jesus was lifted up and Satan was destroyed. We must be attracted to the cross of Jesus: we must look at it because it gives us the strength to go forward. ...

Our life goes on, with Christ victorious and risen, and who sends us the Holy Spirit.

(Homily, Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, 14 September 2018)

Your Excellency, Bishop Malesic, the life of this Church of Cleveland goes on and moves forward with the strength that comes from the Cross of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the flock. Like

Christ, you must draw all those entrusted to your care, whether they are close to Christ or far from Him, nearer to the Heart of the Redeemer.

We are confident that, with trust and hope and with the power that flows from the Cross, you will serve the clergy and faithful entrusted to your pastoral care, leading to the spiritual betterment of this beloved family of faith and to that of the community at large, especially those who are discouraged and who stand in need of understanding and tenderness.

I, therefore, commend you to Saint John the Evangelist, who was entrusted by the Lord, from the Cross, to the Virgin Mary, and to the Virgin herself, as you begin your ministry here.

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