

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND JEFFREY GROB,
THE MOST REVEREND KEVIN BIRMINGHAM,
AND THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT LOMBARDO, CFR
AS AUXILIARY BISHOPS OF CHICAGO,
HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL, CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

Your Eminence Cardinal Cupich, Your Excellencies Bishops Bartosic, Casey, Manz, Perry, and Wypych, Your Excellencies Bishops Emeritus Kane and Bishop Rassas, Your Excellencies Auxiliary Bishops-elect Grob, Birmingham, and Lombardo, Your Excellencies Auxiliary Bishops of Chicago, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you again today, in this venerable Holy Name Cathedral, as Father Jeffrey Grob, Father Kevin Birmingham and Father Robert Lombardo are ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begin their ministry as Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Chicago and close collaborators of the Chief Shepherd of this Local Church, Cardinal Blase Cupich.

I am delighted to be with you on this Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. As you know Mother Cabrini founded Columbus Hospital in Chicago in 1905, a place where she lived, worked, and died. She was tireless in her ministry to immigrants, especially those of Italian descent, and she was a true missionary. In 1895, she wrote: **“When we are faithful to our promises, the heart of Jesus guides us along paths of justice and holiness. His loving light shines on us and restores us.”**

Dear Auxiliary Bishops-elect, you have already made significant contributions as priests, as a judicial vicar, and as episcopal vicar, we are confident that here in the “Windy City”, you will allow the missionary Spirit, the Spirit of the Heart of Jesus, which guided the works of Mother Cabrini, to help you renew and rebuild this local church of Chicago.

Rooted in her love for God and neighbor, Mother Cabrini was faithful to her promises. Pope Francis reminds us: **“Love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another. For love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. Love enables us**

to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home... Love exudes compassion and dignity”
(Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, 3 October 2020, 62).

Invoking the Most Holy Name of Jesus, I commend you to the intercession of Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini and to Our Lady of the Angels. We pray that the Holy Spirit will endow you and your episcopal ministry with learning and virtue for the spiritual betterment of this family of faith and the community at large.

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