

**SOLEMN CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND JEFFREY WALSH
AS SIXTH BISHOP OF GAYLORD
ST. MARY, OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHEDRAL,
GAYLORD, MICHIGAN
MARCH 4, 2022**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Vigneron, Your Excellency Archbishop Hebda, Your Excellency Bishop Hurley, Bishop Bambara, Bishop Raica, Bishop-Elect Jeffrey Walsh, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Gaylord, and all those joining through live-streaming, television and radio:

I am pleased to be here in this beautiful cathedral in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as today Bishop-elect Jeffrey Walsh is ordained to fullness of the priesthood and begins his episcopal ministry as sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord. I want to thank Bishop Walter Hurley who has served as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese since June 2020, as well as Bishop Steven Raica, who shepherded this Diocese for nearly six years until his transfer to Birmingham.

Your Excellency, Bishop-Elect Walsh, you have distinguished yourself in service as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, showing concern for the clergy as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; in cultivating vocations and being attentive to the needs of young people; in your commitment to Catholic education, and in leading the flock as a shepherd, most recently in Carbondale as pastor of both Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Rose, where you have recently completed a beautiful renovation and restoration of the church. Your gifts are many and the Holy Father has every confidence that you will put those gifts at the service of the flock.

You are now asked to watch over, guard, protect, and nourish this beloved family of faith in Gaylord. As the new Shepherd of this Flock, I place before you the words of the Holy Father:

“A shepherd after the heart of God has a heart sufficiently free to set aside his own concerns. He does not live by calculating his gains or how long he has worked: he is not an accountant of the Spirit, but a Good Samaritan who seeks out those in need. For the flock he is a shepherd, not an inspector, and he devotes himself to the mission not fifty or sixty percent, but with all he has. In seeking, he finds, and he finds because he takes risks. Unless a shepherd risks, he does not find. He does not stop when disappointed and he does not yield to weariness. Indeed, he is stubborn in doing good, anointed with

the divine obstinacy that loses sight of no one.” (Pope Francis, Jubilee for Priests, 3 June 2016)

My Brother, the Holy Father is asking you to be close to the people of Gaylord by taking risks for them and by being stubborn in doing good.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel intercede for you and strengthen you as you begin your episcopal ministry.

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