

**SOLEMN INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT BRENNAN
AS THE EIGHTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

Your Eminence Cardinal Dolan, Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, Your Excellency Bishop DiMarzio, Your Excellencies Bishop Sanchez, Bishop Chappetto, Bishop Massa, Bishop Mroziwski, Bishop Tiedemann, Bishop Cisneros, My Brothers Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Bishop Robert Brennan is installed as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, a Diocese that continues to flourish and which serves as a place of encounter between peoples from many countries and cultures and who speak many languages.

Five years ago, the Holy Father said:

“Our great challenge is to create a culture of encounter, which encourages individuals and groups to share the richness of our traditions and experiences, to break down walls and to build bridges. The Church in America, as elsewhere, is called to ‘go out’ from its comfort zone and to be a leaven of communion. Communion among ourselves, with our fellow Christians, and with all who seek a future of hope. We need to become ever more fully a community of missionary disciples, filled with love of the Lord Jesus and enthusiasm for the spread of the Gospel.” (VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE USCCB, 14-17 NOVEMBER 2016)

Your Excellency, as a Bishop, you know about building communion among peoples. You have distinguished yourself as a shepherd in Rockville Centre and in the Diocese of Columbus. Now you return to the state of New York to shepherd the People of God in Brooklyn to help them to be a leaven of communion.

You begin your ministry here on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, who, with the Beloved Disciple, spent the whole day with the Lord, after which he exclaimed to his brother Simon, “We have found the Messiah.” It is our sincere hope that following in his footsteps, you may invite others to encounter the Lord and to discover for themselves the life that Jesus offers.

Fortunately, you do not have to do this alone. Assisted by your many auxiliary bishops, priests, religious, and members of the lay faithful, and building upon the heritage of faith left for you, we have every confidence that assisted by God's grace, you will succeed in your mission which the Holy Father has entrusted to you.

Finally, I wish to thank Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, who has shepherded this Diocese since 2003, having shepherded the People of God in Camden before that. Bishop DiMarzio, thank you for your faithful service. May God continue to bless you. Please know of the gratitude of the whole Church of Brooklyn.

Bishop Brennan, we entrust you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Universal Protector of the Church and the patron of this Co-Cathedral, and the Holy Apostles St. Andrew and St. James, wishing you peace and joy in Christ Jesus.

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