

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF
MOST REVEREND FRANK SCHUSTER
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SEATTLE
ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
MAY 3, 2022**

Your Eminence, Cardinal Mahony, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Etienne, Your Excellency Archbishop Sartain, Your Excellency Bishop Elizondo, Your Excellency Auxiliary Bishop-Elect Schuster, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Church in Seattle, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you as Father Frank Schuster is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle in close fraternal communion with the Chief Shepherd of this Local Church, Archbishop Paul Etienne. Bishop-Elect Schuster has distinguished himself as a Pastor, a Campus Minister, and as the Director of Deacon Formation in the Archdiocese. He is also a distinguished blogger! The Holy Father has called him to assist Archbishop Etienne in his episcopal ministry.

Bishop-Elect Schuster, as you are ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and calls you to the vocation of a bishop, I offer you the words of the Holy Father, which he gave just a few months ago:

“Our vocation is before all else a response to the One who loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19). This is the source of our hope, for even amid crises, the Lord never ceases to love us and to call us. Each of us can testify to this: one day the Lord found us, where we were and as we were, in uncertain circumstances or complex family situations; yet this did not discourage him from using each of us to write the history of salvation. So it was from the beginning – we can think of Peter, Paul and Matthew, just to name a few. Jesus did not choose them because they were perfect, but because he was concretely committed to each of them.” (ADDRESS TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE SYMPOSIUM PROMOTED BY THE CONGREGATION FOR BISHOPS, 17 FEBRUARY 2022)

The Holy Father identified four types of closeness of the priest: closeness to God; closeness to the Bishop, in your case the Archbishop; closeness to his brother priests; and closeness to the People. Of this last type of closeness, Pope Francis said:

“Closeness to the People of God, a closeness that, enriched by those other forms of closeness, invites and indeed demands that we imitate the Lord’s own “style”. That style is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness, in which we act not as judges, but as Good Samaritans who acknowledge the wounds of our people, their silent sufferings, the self-denial and sacrifices made by so many fathers and mothers ... A style of closeness that allows us to pour balm upon wounds and to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord (cf. Is 61:2). It is imperative to remember that the people of God are hoping to find shepherds in the style of Jesus.” (IBID.)

Bishop-Elect Schuster, you have shepherded the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, who knew how to be close to the clergy and to the poor; he was a true Apostle. I commend you to his protection, as well as to that of the Apostle James, that you may boldly proclaim the Gospel and may be willing to lay down your life for the sake of the Gospel and the sake of your flock.

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