

REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REV. J. GREGORY KELLY AS FIFTH BISHOP OF TYLER
W. T. BROOKSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTER – TYLER, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Good afternoon!

Greetings to everyone who is here: members of the community and distinguished guests; the faithful of this Diocese; women and men in consecrated life and in formation; deacons, priests, and my brother bishops. Please know of the spiritual closeness of Pope Francis to all of you and to everyone in this local Church. And thank you for the prayers that I know you are offering for him.

As we gather for this joyful occasion, I want to offer a special word of thanks, first, to Cardinal DiNardo: Thank you, Your Eminence, for your many years of faithful ministry as Metropolitan Archbishop of this Province and of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Thanks also to you, Bishop Vásquez, for your work as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Tyler for more than one year. Cardinal DiNardo and Archbishop-designate Vásquez: I look forward to seeing you both in Houston next month, for another little celebration!

Bishop Kelly: congratulations! And congratulations to the people of the Diocese of Tyler who today are receiving you as their fifth Bishop. The Holy Father reminds us that faith means “believing in God, believing that he truly loves us, that he is alive, that he is mysteriously capable of intervening, that he does not abandon us [...]” (*EVANGELII GAUDIUM*, 278). Your appointment and installation are yet another testament to God’s fidelity to his people. Christ’s resurrection makes him present to us today, including here in this local Church. For this reason, you and your people can continue to be “pilgrims of hope”, strengthened by the grace of this Jubilee Year.

Bishop Kelly: Continue to “take courage”, as your episcopal motto says. You, together with the people of this Diocese—walking together and listening to one another—will be able to journey on a path of mission, always letting the Holy Spirit be the protagonist. Blessings to you, Bishop Kelly, as you set out today on this journey with your people.

Now, I will read an English translation of the official letter of appointment from the Holy Father.