

**REMARKS BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TRINITY MISSIONS *SPIRIT OF FATHER JUDGE* RECEPTION  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE – WASHINGTON, D.C.  
MARCH 25, 2025**

Dear Friends and Guests,

Although I am unable to be with you in person for this year's reception, I want to welcome you to "the Pope's house". Please be assured of the Holy Father's spiritual communion with you. He is grateful for your prayers, especially during this time of his illness and hospitalization. On his behalf, I offer you his paternal affection and welcome as you gather for the *Spirit of Father Judge* Reception.

We need the spirit of Fr. Thomas Judge today. During the early 1900s when he lived, the United States was receiving many immigrants, especially from eastern and southern Europe. Because of the Gospel which Father Judge had been ordained to serve, he understood what the Lord asks of us with regard to people who are migrating. We must welcome them, protect them, promote them so that they can achieve their potential, and integrate them as valuable contributors to our culture.<sup>1</sup>

James J. Norris also had a lifelong attachment to the poor—from his childhood days when he helped his mother feed strangers at the back door of their New Jersey home, to his work with the federal government to relocate World War II refugees to places of safety, to his collaboration with the future Pope Paul VI in creating the International Catholic Migration Commission.

On this Solemnity of the Annunciation, we can also reflect on the example of the Blessed Mother. She willingly received the One who, although He was rich, became poor for our sake,<sup>2</sup> and who entered our world as a stranger. In faith, hope, and love, Mary welcomed the Savior into her life, protected Him with the help of St. Joseph when His life was threatened by King Herod, promoted Him as he grew into His vocation as the Messiah, and helped Him integrate His human experience with His divine mission.

As we remember the work of the two men for whom tonight's honors are named, and the work of Our Lady which is the model for all Christians, we recognize that this is also the work of our honorees, Mark Shriver and Randall and Christine Scott. The Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, of which Mark is President, welcomes students who have limited resources, and helps them to achieve their great potential. Likewise Randy and Christine, in their professional life and volunteer work, promote educational opportunities for students, especially for the Catholic University of America.

I am happy that our Nunciature is once again able to host this event; I congratulate those who are being honored; and I wish all of you a joyful time together and a grace-filled Jubilee.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Pope Francis, 2017 Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 8 September 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. 2 *Corinthians* 8:9.