

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**INSTALLATION OF THE MOST REVEREND W. SHAWN MCKNIGHT
AS ARCHBISHOP OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS
CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY – LEAWOOD, KANSAS
MAY 27, 2025**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the prayers by which you accompanied me and my fellow Cardinals as we discerned the election of the Holy Father. During the Conclave, we had an experience of the Holy Spirit, who was present to us in a very real way, and who was working through us. And thanks to God, we have now a wonderful result: the election of Pope Leo. I am very happy to be here representing him. And I have the privilege of conveying to you his affection and his spiritual communion.

Thank you also for the prayers that you have offered for Pope Francis. It is he who, on the last day that he appointed bishops for the United States, gave to this local Church the gift that we celebrate today: a new shepherd for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas: Archbishop Shawn McKnight.

A word of thanks to Archbishop Naumann, who has dedicated himself to the care of this local Church for more than 20 years, and who recently celebrated 50 years as a priest. Congratulations, Archbishop, and thank you!

Archbishop McKnight: As you return to your home state of Kansas, you join a people who are already on a journey with the Lord, and whose journey is filled with hope, especially during this Jubilee Year. You have the joy, not only to have been given to this Archdiocese by Pope Francis, but also to be confirmed in this mission by Pope Leo, who is equally committed to being a synodal Church, a Church on mission together.

You can be assured of all the grace necessary to find joy among the people of northeastern Kansas, and to give thanks to the Lord with them.

At this time, I will read an English translation of the official letter of your appointment.