

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ORDINATION OF THE MOST REV. THOMAS J. HENNEN AS BISHOP OF BAKER
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH – BEND, OREGON
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Holy Father’s representative to the United States, it is my privilege to convey to you the spiritual closeness of Pope Leo XIV.

Before reading an English translation of the Pope’s official decree, I would like to congratulate this local Church, the Diocese of Baker, on receiving a new Bishop.

Bishop Cary, thank you for your 13 years of faithful ministry to this Diocese. May God continue to bless and accompany you.

Bishop-elect Hennen, as you receive the gift of episcopal ordination today, be assured that the grace of God and the intercession of the faithful are with you. In a special way, you are blessed to begin your ministry as bishop during this Jubilee, which Pope Francis called “a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus” (*Spes Non Confundit*, 1). As you join together with the people of the Diocese of Baker on a pilgrimage of hope, you are being led by the risen Christ. Conformed to him, relying on the help of your collaborators, and trusting in God’s promises which do not disappoint, you are sure to be an inspiring teacher, an effective minister of grace, and a good leader for God’s people.

May God bless you, and may God bless the lay faithful, religious, and clergy of this local Church.

Now, I will now read, in English, the Decree from Pope Leo.