

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND KEVIN J. SWEENEY
AS EIGHTH BISHOP OF PATERSON,
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020**

Your Eminence Joseph Cardinal Tobin, Metropolitan Archbishop of Newark, Your Excellency Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Your Excellency Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Paterson, Dear Friends in Christ:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Father Kevin J. Sweeney is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry here as Bishop of Paterson. Father Sweeney has distinguished himself as a priest of Brooklyn, Vocation Director, Spiritual Director, and as a father to immigrants, whether those of Irish descent or the new immigrants, especially those who speak Spanish. The Holy Father has recognized his gifts and has called him to shepherd this Church of Paterson.

Allow me to express my gratitude for the sixteen years of episcopal ministry of Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, who oversaw the magnificent restoration of this cathedral church and who shepherded this Diocese through its 80th Anniversary celebrations. Your Excellency, thank you.

Father Sweeney, as you begin your episcopal ministry here, I place before you the words of the first Bishop of Paterson, for whom evangelization was a priority. His Excellency Thomas H. McLaughlin said at his installation on April 28, 1938: **“I pray you to consider with me, the sacred yet happy task which lies before us, so that, in common prayer and purpose, we may with the grace of God appreciate and achieve through our ministry the riches of the glory of the revelation of the Divinity in Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of the world, the Founder of the Church, the Author of life and Holiness.”**

It is fitting that you are being installed on the Memorial of St. Junípero Serra, another great evangelist. At this canonization, the Holy Father said: **“Father Junípero Serra was the embodiment of “a Church which goes forth”, a Church which sets out to bring everywhere the reconciling tenderness of God. Junípero Serra left his native land and its way of life. He was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life. He learned how to bring to birth and nurture God’s life in the faces of everyone he met; he made them his brothers and sisters. Junípero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had**

mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people.

Father Serra had a motto which inspired his life and work, not just a saying, but above all a reality which shaped the way he lived: *siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward!" (Homily, Canonization of St. Junípero Serra, 23 September 2015)

As you lead this Pilgrim People on the journey of Faith, keep moving forward. Know of our prayers and heartfelt best wishes. May Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, St. Junípero Serra, and St. John the Baptist, the patron of this Diocese, assist you in making known the living God, who has revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

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