

**INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND ANDREW BELLISARIO, C.M.
AS THE FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF ANCHORAGE-JUNEAU
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CO-CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

Your Excellency Archbishop-Designate Andrew Bellisario, Your Excellency Archbishop Etienne, Your Excellency Archbishop Emeritus Schwietz, Bishop Zielinski of Fairbanks, Dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Anchorage and Juneau, Dear Friends:

In this beautiful Co-Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I am happy to join you as His Excellency Andrew Bellisario is solemnly installed as the First Metropolitan Archbishop of this newly created Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau. He is well-known to you having served in the Archdiocese of Anchorage as a pastor and as both Administrator of the Archdiocese and as Bishop of Juneau.

Today is the Feast Day of Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Cardinal, and Doctor of the Church. He reminds us of the high calling of the cleric:

The good cleric is exhorted to seek for no other inheritance than God, that He alone "may be the portion of his inheritance", and the cleric may be truly said to be "the portion and inheritance" of God alone. O how high is the clerical state which renounces the whole world that it may possess God alone, and may in return be possessed by God alone! "This is the meaning of the words of the Psalmist: "*The Lord is my portion of my inheritance and of my cup.*" (Robert Bellarmine, *The Art of Dying*, Chapter XIV)

And so, my brother, as you are installed as a Metropolitan Archbishop and as such enjoy a special bond of communion with See of Peter and his Successor, as well as to the other Bishops of the world, I exhort you to seek always the Lord and in finding Him, share the fruits of your contemplation with your flock.

Archbishop Bellisario, we pray that you will watch lovingly over the clergy, religious and lay faithful being entrusted to your pastoral care as well as the community at large. Through your dedicated episcopal ministry, "**...may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and sign of pardon, strength, aid and love**" (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 25)

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