

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF THE
MOST REVEREND JOSEPH WILLIAMS
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 25, 2022**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis Bernard Hebda, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Father Joseph Williams is consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which the Holy Father has looked upon with love in appointing a new bishop to assist Archbishop Hebda in shepherding the People of God. Bishop-elect Williams has distinguished himself in this Archdiocese, especially as a pastor, most recently at Stephen and Holy Rosary. He has a special love for and interest in persons with disabilities, the poor, and immigrants and has joyfully served the Spanish-speaking community in this Archdiocese for more than fifteen years. As he is ordained to the fullness of Holy Orders, I am sure that he will be an excellent collaborator with Archbishop Hebda and the other bishops of the Province.

Recently, in addressing the Italian Episcopal Conference, the Holy Father spoke of the “Beatitudes for Bishops”. I place the words of just one of these beatitudes before you:

“Blessed is the bishop who has a heart for the misery of the world, who is not afraid to dirty his hands with the mud of the human soul in order to find the gold of God there, who is not scandalized by the sin and fragility of others because he knows his own misery, because the look of the Risen Crucified One will be the seal of infinite forgiveness.” (POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION OF THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ITALIAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, 22 NOVEMBER 2021)

Your Excellency, it is my sincere hope that you take these words to heart and that you allow them to animate your ministry here in St. Paul and Minneapolis as you begin your episcopal ministry.

You know what it means to dirty your hands among the poor and the migrant only to discover the true treasure of the life of faith which they possess. You also know what it means to encounter the “Risen Crucified One”, just as Paul did on the road to Damascus. That encounter changed everything for him, and he was able to offer the hope that comes from the Risen Lord and the Gospel to the nations.

It is my sincere hope that, working closely with Archbishop Hebda, you may continue to share the joy of the Gospel with the people of this Archdiocese. Assuring you of my prayers, I commend you to St. Paul, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Clergy, and to Saint Joseph, your patron.

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