

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION AND
INSTALLATION OF THE
MOST REVEREND JACQUES E. FABRE, C.S.
AS FOURTEENTH BISHOP OF CHARLESTON
NORTH CHARLESTON CONVENTION CENTER
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
MAY 13, 2022**

Your Eminence, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop Hartmayer, and co-consecrator Archbishop Wenski, Your Excellency Bishop Guglielmone, Bishop Baker, Bishop-Elect Fabre, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Charleston, and all those joining through live-streaming, television and radio:

I am very pleased to be join this large and festive gathering of the local Church in South Carolina. I want to thank Bishop Guglielmone for his service to this historic diocese over the past thirteen years and, among many other achievements, for overseeing the restoration of the lovely Cathedral of St John the Baptist. Your Excellency, the People of God in Charleston are grateful for your ministry as an outstanding shepherd.

Bishop-Elect Fabre, the great patrimony of faith of the Catholics of this area, will now be handed over to you. Give it a shepherd's care.

Your Excellency, Bishop-Elect Fabre, you have already lived your priesthood in Cuba, Colombia, Rome, the Dominican Republic, and here in the United States in a distinguished way as a Scalabrinian Father. As a Haitian, a priest and missionary, you are acutely aware of the challenges faced by migrants around the world and even here in the United States. Your gifts, not only with languages, but of sensitivity to diverse groups of peoples and cultures, have not gone unnoticed and will be a great asset to the Church. But now, the Holy Father has asked to watch over, guard, protect, and nourish this beloved family of faith in Charleston.

The founder of your religious Institute, Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, was a pioneering bishop; an explorer able to step outside the accepted boundaries and thinking of his day, to confront obstacles and use them as opportunities to advance the dignity of the human person and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He once remarked: **"Without a doubt, we are in the hands of God, but we must not sit there idly."** Do not sit idly, but go and set this Diocese on fire with the love of Jesus Christ and His Gospel!

My Brother, the Holy Father is asking you to be close to the people of Charleston. Recently, commenting on the need for shepherds to be close to their people, Pope Francis said:

"Closeness to the People of God, a closeness that, enriched by those other forms of closeness, invites and indeed demands that we imitate the Lord's own "style". That style is one of closeness, compassion and tenderness, in which we act not as judges, but

as Good Samaritans who acknowledge the wounds of our people, their silent sufferings, the self-denial and sacrifices made by so many fathers and mothers ... A style of closeness that allows us to pour balm upon wounds and to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord (cf. Is 61:2). It is imperative to remember that the people of God are hoping to find shepherds in the style of Jesus” (Address to Participants at the Symposium promoted by the Congregation for Bishops, 17 February 2022).

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, intercede for you and strengthen you as you begin your episcopal ministry.

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