

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND ERIC POHLMEIER
AS ELEVENTH BISHOP OF ST. AUGUSTINE
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
JULY 22, 2022**

Your Excellency Archbishop Wenski, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, Your Excellency Bishop Felipe Estévez of St. Augustine (co-consecrator), Your Excellency Bishop Anthony Taylor of Little Rock (co-consecrator), my Brother Archbishops, Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops, Father Abbots...

As we come together today in this great Parish Church of St. Joseph to celebrate the Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect Eric Pohlmeier, we first of all give thanks to Bishop Estévez for his leadership these past eleventh years. We are especially grateful for the care and concern that he has shown for this beautiful Diocese. He has indeed earned the love and respect of his people for his devotion and dedication.

Bishop Pohlmeier, we want to give particular recognition to your loving parents. (We know that you were born in Colorado and raised in Paris, Arkansas, where your family lives today, but not Paris in France) We acknowledge your father who is already a Permanent Deacon and knows the meaning of ordained service for the Church, and we congratulate your brother Jason for becoming a Permanent Deacon on June 25th.

Bishop Pohlmeier, you come to us today as a man of many experiences and diverse talents throughout all of your 24 years as a priest. You have studied mechanical engineering, philosophy, dogmatic theology in Rome, and spiritual theology. Besides serving already as a pastor of a number of churches (5), your leadership in Faith Formation and Deaconate Formation and Continual Education for the Clergy has enriched the lives of both the ordained and the lay members of the Church of Little Rock. This will be of great assistance to you in your new ministry as Bishop.

You have been quite productive and appreciated in your service as a consultor of the Diocese of Little Rock, a member of the Presbyteral Council, the Personal Board and the Clergy Welfare Board, as well as theological consultant for the *Arkansas Catholic* newspaper. You are to be commended for your mastery of the Spanish language, so as to better serve a wider range of God's people.

It is no wonder that you have chosen for your episcopal motto **"First Seek the Kingdom of God"**, because God is so involved in everything that you are about and because you see the work of God as the priority in your ministry, especially now as Ordinary in the St. Augustine Diocese. We know that your background will be a source of tremendous inspiration to your people and will continue to enliven the faithful and help to make them more conscious of their baptismal commitment as they seek to fulfill their own personal mission as disciples of Jesus in this Diocese. We wish you the very best in all your endeavors.

Now, I would like to read the Papal Decree appointing you as Bishop of St. Augustine.