

**INSTALLATION OF
MOST REVEREND CHAD W. ZIELINSKI
AS FIFTH BISHOP OF NEW ULM
CHURCH OF ST. MARY
SLEEPY EYE, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. I hope that my remarks, however, will not put you to sleep, but rather will inspire in you a cause for rejoicing that you are being blessed with such a fine new Ordinary, Bishop Chad Zielinski.

I am very happy to be with you all, God's people, especially my brother bishops, their Excellencies, Archbishop Hebda, Archbishop Vigneron, Archbishop Bellisario, Archbishop Schwietz, Archbishop Broglio, Bishop LeVoir, Bishop Kettler...

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop John LeVoir for his service and dedication as he led this Diocese of New Ulm from July of 2008 until his retirement in August of 2020. We thank also Monsignor Douglas Grams who has served so faithfully as Diocesan Administrator since the retirement of Bishop LeVoir.

Bishop Zielinski, you certainly have been a well-traveled person and have been part of many cultures, with such a wide range of experiences. Your spirit of adventure and willingness to go beyond the boundaries has brought you from farm life in Gaylord in your youth to your service in the US Air Force to College in Idaho, to Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, back to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, and after ordination in Gaylord to parish life as associate pastor in Empire and then pastor in 1999 in Empire and in Maple City.

Dear Bishop, your ever expansive spirit prompted you, following the terrorist attacks of 2001, to realize more fully your caring priestly call by becoming a chaplain in the Archdiocese for Military Services, with your Bishop's permission, by starting at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota in 2002 and then from 2003 to 2005 being stationed in Suffolk, England, before returning to the United States, assigned to Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service at Randolph Air Force Base in Schertz, Texas. As if that were not enough, you were then appointed in 2009 Roman Catholic Cadet Chaplain at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. In 2012 you served as Chaplain to the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska. Little did you realize then that in 2014, two years later, you would receive a call from the then Nuncio in Washington, DC, that the Holy Father was appointing you Bishop of the enormous diocese of Fairbanks, an apparently overwhelming challenge. But by God's grace you met the challenge. It seems as though the world is not expansive enough to contain you.

Now you are returning as Bishop to the farmland – from Gaylord to New Ulm – one of the most rural dioceses in the country. But wherever you have been sent, you have brought the power of Jesus – travelling limitless miles, fulfilling a tremendous mission of evangelization. You have chosen well your episcopal motto: **He must increase** - the words of John the Baptist.

Once again, dear brother in Christ, may the Gospel message you proclaim by the example of your unselfish life of total dedication and sacrifice, continue to bring more and more light into people's lives.

And now I will read the papal decree appointing you Bishop of New Ulm.