

**HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE**  
**MASS OF WELCOME FOR THE MOST REVEREND CHRISTOPHER J. COYNE**  
**AS COADJUTOR ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD**  
**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH**  
**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**  
**OCTOBER 9, 2023**

Your Excellency Archbishop Blair, Bishop Betancourt, the retired Archbishops and Auxiliary Bishops of this local Church, Archbishop Coyne, and all my brother bishops; dear priests, deacons, consecrated religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford; dear friends:

As the personal representative of the Holy Father to the United States of America, it is my privilege to convey to all who are gathered here the spiritual closeness and paternal affection of Pope Francis.

Archbishop Blair, when you became a bishop, you took as your episcopal motto the Lord's words to Peter: "Feed my sheep" (JOHN 21:17). Even though your ministry as Archbishop has not yet concluded, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, in the presence of God's people, for your 10 years of service as shepherd of this local Church, for more than 24 years as a bishop, and more than 47 years as a priest. May God continue to bless you during the remainder of your active ministry. And may you experience the rewards that come from having fed and tended God's flock.

My brothers and sisters, it gives me joy to represent His Holiness as Archbishop Christopher Coyne is formally received and welcomed as Coadjutor Archbishop of Hartford. Archbishop Coyne brings to his ministry a passion for evangelization and a commitment to accompanying his brothers and sisters on a shared journey of faith. As he already said to the people of the Archdiocese, he follows the advice that Saint Peter gave in the New Testament: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). Archbishop Coyne's hope, of course, is the same hope that we all have: the person of Jesus Christ, and the Lord's promise of an abundant life for all who follow him. Archbishop Coyne is a man who helps people have an encounter with Christ through his personal presence, through his dialogue and preaching – both in-person and by way of the digital media – and through his celebration of the Christian mysteries.

Archbishop Coyne: during this time of transition, you have been learning about the Archdiocese of Hartford, getting to know its people – lay, consecrated, and ordained – and gaining insight from Archbishop Blair. I am sure that this period of transition will allow you to "hit the ground running" when you assume leadership of this local Church, to which the Holy Father has appointed you.

With joy, I will now read the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.