

**SOLEMN EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF
THE MOST REVEREND JOHN-NHAN TRAN
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA,
CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA,
JANUARY 23, 2023**

Your Eminence Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Your Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop of Atlanta Gregory Hartmayer, Auxiliary Bishops Konzen and Schlesinger, Your Excellency Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, Your Excellency Archbishop Emeritus Hughes of New Orleans, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Father John Tran is consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of this Archdiocese, which the Holy Father has looked upon with pastoral solicitude in appointing a new bishop to assist Archbishop Hartmayer in shepherding the People of God.

Bishop-elect Tran has distinguished himself in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, especially as a pastor, most recently at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Mandeville. Bishop-Elect Tran's personal story is quite moving; he knows the ravages of war, the struggles of being forced to leave one's homeland; and the challenges of making a new life in a new world, with a new language. Throughout his life and ministry, he has shown remarkable patience and perseverance and maintained his faith in God.

His life experience has prepared him for this point, and the Divine Master has been shaping and forming him, even through suffering, into a masterpiece. As he is ordained to the fullness of Holy Orders, I am sure that he will be an excellent collaborator with Archbishop Hartmayer and the other bishops of the Province. His ordination is also a sign of the great diversity in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and of the rich contribution of the Vietnamese faithful here.

Two years ago, 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 Atlanta 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, a feast which we will commemorate in just two days. 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 Hartmayer, you may continue to share the joy of the Gospel with the people of this Archdiocese, just as you did with the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Assuring you of my prayers, I commend you to Our Lady, Queen of Peace, whose Immaculate Heart will triumph, to St. Pius X, and to your heavenly patron, St. John.

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