

**REMARKS OF H.E. ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REVEREND EDWARD M. LOHSE
AS FIFTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN
JULY 25, 2023**

Your Excellency Archbishop Vigneron, Metropolitan Archbishop of Detroit; Your Excellency Bishop Bradley; Your Excellency Bishop Persico, all my brother bishops; dear priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

It is my pleasure to be with you today, and to represent His Holiness Pope Francis at the ordination and installation of Bishop-elect Edward Lohse as the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Please know of our Holy Father's spiritual closeness and of his prayers.

Bishop Bradley, thank you for your 14 years of service as Bishop of this local Church, for faithfully continuing your ministry while a successor was sought, and for all of your ministerial service within the Church, which includes more than 18 years as a bishop and more than 52 years as a priest. May God bless you!

To Bishop Persico and the people of the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania: we are grateful for the gift that you offer to the Church, and for everything that you have done to help prepare Bishop-elect Lohse to receive this call.

Bishop-elect Lohse: your 34 years of ministry as a priest have prepared you well for the tasks of the episcopacy. Your assignments have included pastoral ministry to parishes and individuals, service in the Holy See's ministry to clergy, vocations work, and diocesan administration. Now you have been called to the fullest expression of the Catholic priesthood. In saying "yes", you have promised to give your all, accepting the gift of God's grace, which includes a share both in the Cross of Jesus and in the fruits of his Resurrection, just as it did for the first Apostles. You have said to the people of this Diocese that you look forward to journeying along the path of faith together with them. This is key. Journeying together, discerning together, accompanying one another while listening to each other and to the Spirit: this is what it means to be a Church on mission in the world. With this style of discipleship, you and the people of the Diocese of Kalamazoo can be assured that Christ will be present in your midst: the Good Shepherd guiding you in right paths.

Of course, Bishop-elect Lohse, sharing life's journey with others is not something that you only began to learn as a priest or with your election as a bishop. Belonging to a large family has taught you from the beginning the value of listening, understanding, and cooperating in love for the common good. We know that you will bring your own experience of family to your ministry as head of your new spiritual family. This will enable you also to share with your people the experience of being brothers and sisters, united under the one Fatherhood of God, through his Son Jesus Christ. So, blessings and congratulations as well to the members of Bishop-elect Lohse's family.

Now, I will read the Papal Decree appointing you as Bishop of Kalamazoo.