

**REMARKS OF CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND ENTHRONEMENT OF
THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT M. PIPTA
AS THE SIXTH BYZANTINE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF PARMA
HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH – EUCLID, OHIO
NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

My dear brother bishops, particularly Archbishop Skurla, Bishop Lach, Bishop Burnette, and fellow clergy, dear religious and members of the lay faithful, dear friends: It is my honor and privilege to convey to you, as the Holy Father’s representative to the United States, the spiritual closeness and paternal affection of Pope Francis.

Bishop Burnette may God bless and reward you for your service as Apostolic Administrator of Parma.

Bishop-elect Pipta, as one who appreciates music and the liturgy, perhaps the words of Psalm 150 are appropriate for this occasion:

“O praise [God] with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.”

Indeed, we praise God together with his people of the Eparchy of Parma, since today he blesses this Church with a new shepherd to lead it in the name of Christ. God has prepared you well for this new ministry, calling you to serve at the liturgy even from a young age, and eventually leading you to the priesthood. Your ministry as a priest has formed you in loving service for the people of God, especially in parochial ministry and in your work in the leadership and formation of men for the priesthood.

As you begin to follow this new calling as a bishop, it is good to hear the words of Pope Francis in a homily he gave last Friday, at a Mass for Pope Benedict XVI and the Cardinals and Bishops who died in the last year. Recalling the very first words with which Pope Benedict described himself following his election – “a *humble* laborer in the vineyard of the Lord” – Pope Francis said:

“Indeed, Christians, especially the Pope, the Cardinals and the Bishops, are called to be humble laborers: to serve, not to be served and to put the fruits of the Lord’s vineyard before their advantage. What a fine thing it is to renounce ourselves for the Church of Jesus!”¹

Bishop-elect Pipta, may your humble labor for God’s people produce, both for you and for them, the “comforting joy” that comes from the Gospel, allowing you to “sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” (*Eph 5:9*).

I will now read the Papal Decree of your appointment.

¹ Pope Francis, Homily for Mass in Memory of Pope Benedict XVI and the Cardinals and Bishops departed during the course of the year, November 3, 2023.