

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REV. MICHAEL T. MARTIN, OFM CONV.
AS FIFTH BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE
SAINT MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH – HUNTERSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 29, 2024**

Your Excellency Bishop Jugis and all my brother bishops; dear priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

It is a joy to be with you today as we celebrate the ordination of Fr. Michael Martin as the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. I have the privilege of conveying to all of you the spiritual closeness and affection of Pope Francis. Shortly I will read the official decree appointing Fr. Martin as Bishop.

But first, allow me to thank you, Bishop Jugis, for your many years of service to the Church and to the Diocese of Charlotte: more than 40 years as a priest, and more than 20 years as Bishop. May God bless you, may he preserve your health, and may he give you peace and joy during this time of your retirement.

To Bishop-elect Martin: Congratulations! Not only have you been elected by Pope Francis to shepherd the Church in western North Carolina as Bishop, but soon you will celebrate your 35th anniversary as a priest. In your years as a religious and as a priest, you have had a variety of ministries which have prepared you well to be the Bishop of this local Church, including your involvement in Catholic education, your university campus ministry, and your service as a parish priest. With the Holy Spirit as your constant companion and guide, and with St. Francis of Assisi as your model of evangelical zeal, you will continue to bring the joy of the Gospel to the people of this area, where the Church continues to grow. Remembering that Jesus is always “with us in the boat”, you will have all the strength you need to follow the words of Christ which you have taken as your episcopal motto: *Duc in Altum*. “Put out into the deep.”

At this time, I will read the Pope’s letter appointing you Bishop.