

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REVEREND REYNALDO BERSABAL  
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SACRAMENTO  
CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT – SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
MAY 31, 2024**

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

I join you in your happiness today, as we celebrate a new gift for this Diocese of Sacramento: the ordination of Fr. Rey Bersabal as Auxiliary Bishop. I am here, as the Pope's representative to the United States, to convey to all of you the spiritual closeness and affection of the Holy Father. In a moment I will read the official decree from Pope Francis appointing Fr. Bersabal as Bishop.

But first, allow me to say to you, Fr. Bersabal: Congratulations! By receiving this new calling to be a bishop, the Lord is asking you to continue to "lower the nets": to continue the work of a pastor, which has been at the center of your priestly ministry for many years. Now, your pastoral work will be in even closer collaboration with Bishop Soto, and you will share with him a responsibility for all the people of this local Church.

In his homily to conclude the assembly of the Synod last October, Pope Francis summarized the meaning of our lives with two words: "To adore and to serve. We love God through adoration and service" (29 October 2023). This is a fitting guide for your pastoral calling as a bishop. The very name of this Diocese, and the name of this Cathedral, gives honor to the One to whom we give our adoration: Jesus Christ, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. By returning each day to Christ in adoration, and going forth to serve the people to whom he sends you, you will fulfill the Lord's command.

Be assured that you are accompanied in your mission by the prayers of many. Not only by those on earth, but also by the heavenly intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Teresa of Avila (to whom I understand you are devoted), and the other saints of God.

It is now my pleasure to read the Pope's letter appointing you Bishop.