

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REV. JOHN J. McDERMOTT
AS ELEVENTH BISHOP OF BURLINGTON
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH – BURLINGTON, VERMONT
JULY 15, 2024**

Good afternoon!

Your Eminences Cardinal O'Malley, and Cardinal Gérald Lacroix, Archbishop of Québec; Archbishop Coyne and Bishop Matano; all of my brother bishops, and Bishop-elect McDermott; dear priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

My presence here as Nuncio allows me to express the Holy Father's spiritual closeness to this Diocese of Burlington, and to share with you his prayerful affection as you celebrate the ordination of your 11th Bishop, the Most Reverend John McDermott.

We are blessed to have with us the last two shepherds of the Diocese, Bishop Matano and Archbishop Coyne, who will be co-consecrating Bishop McDermott along with Cardinal O'Malley. Thank you, Bishops Matano and Coyne, for the service that you gave to this Diocese for a combined 17 years.

Bishop-elect McDermott: your many years of experience as a priest of this Diocese, both in administration and in the pastoral care of its people, including ministry to students, has prepared you to take on the role of shepherd of this local Church. It is good that you recognize, in the words of your motto, that "God alone suffices". Trusting in the ways of God, you will glorify Him by remaining committed to revealing the face of Christ – His joy and His mercy – to everyone you encounter in His name.

I pray that you and your collaborators will always seek to follow the call of Pope Francis to be a missionary Church, meaning “a Church which ‘goes forth’” and “whose doors are open”.¹ As the Holy Father said in his first Apostolic Exhortation:

“A missionary heart never closes itself off, never retreats into its own security [...]. It realizes that it has to grow in its own understanding of the Gospel and in discerning the paths of the Spirit, and so it always does what good it can, even if in the process, its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.”²

In following the Spirit’s lead, I know that you, and the people of God in this Diocese, will continue to rely upon the examples of your patron, St. Joseph, and of Mary, the first missionary to carry the Word of God to others.

At this time, I will read an English translation of the official letter of appointment from the Pope.

¹ *EG*, 46.

² *EG*, 45.