

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
MASS OF WELCOME FOR THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH A. WILLIAMS
AS COADJUTOR BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN
OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH
BLACKWOOD, NEW JERSEY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

Your Eminence, Your Excellencies; dear priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Camden; dear friends:

As the personal representative of the Holy Father to the United States of America, it is my privilege to convey to all who are gathered here the spiritual closeness and paternal affection of Pope Francis.

Bishop Sullivan, thank you for your ongoing service to this local Church, where you have been Bishop for more than 11 years now. And early congratulations to you on your 20th anniversary as a Bishop, which you will celebrate shortly.

My brothers and sisters, I am happy to represent His Holiness as Bishop Joseph Williams is formally received and welcomed as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Camden. In his 22 years as a priest, Bishop Williams has been a faithful pastor and evangelizer in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis; and for the last two-and-a-half years, assistant to Archbishop Hebda as auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Williams, I am confident that you will find in this local Church new opportunities to minister the Gospel, first as Coadjutor and eventually as diocesan Bishop. I encourage you to continue to live by the words of your episcopal motto, which are the words of Christ: "I desire mercy." Remember that the Lord is happy to show his mercy toward you, and he desires to be merciful to those whom you serve in his name.

With joy, I will now read the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.