

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REV. SCOTT E. BULLOCK AND
INSTALLATION AS TENTH BISHOP OF RAPID CITY
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP – RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

Good afternoon!

Dear Brother Bishops; dear priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and members of the faithful; dear friends:

Last February in this Cathedral, the funeral Mass was offered for Bishop Peter Muhich. And only four days ago, another funeral was celebrated here, for Fr. Dan Juelfs, who lived a faithful priestly life, and who most recently served as Administrator of the Diocese. By being here, I want to express the Holy Father's spiritual closeness to this Diocese of Rapid City, and in particular, to offer his condolence to all who mourn the loss of Bishop Peter and Fr. Dan.

Of course, for the Christian, sadness and joy are often closely connected; and today is a day of joy for this local Church. Today, the Holy Father shares your joy as you receive a new Shepherd, the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City, the Most Reverend Scott Bullock. Thanks be to God.

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Bishop-elect Bullock: you have said how happy you are as a priest of 33 years, and this is so good to see. It is clear that you recognize this new call to be a Bishop as part of God's plan for your life. Your history as a pastor, judicial vicar, and seminary rector – in addition to your experiences prior to entering the seminary – have prepared you well to be a bishop. You know what it means to meet God's people in a variety of circumstances, and to care for their souls in different stages of their journey.

You have also pursued a love of literature, enriching yourself with an academic degree in this area and using your gift to teach others. I must say: you seem to have anticipated the Pope's recent Letter, in which he highlighted the importance of literature in priestly formation! (Perhaps the Pope consulted you for his letter?)

As the Pope says in that Letter, literature “proves essential for believers who sincerely seek to enter into dialogue with the culture of their time, or simply with the lives and experiences of other people. . . . Reading a literary text,” he says, “places us in the position of ‘seeing through the eyes of others’, thus gaining a breadth of perspective that broadens our humanity.”¹ I am sure, Fr. Bullock, that you have found this to be true. This is so important for our ministry in the Church! It’s important for us not to be “self-referential”, and not to look at the world from the perspective of an ideology; but rather, to see things with the eyes of Christ, and from the perspective of others.

I am happy for the people of the Diocese of Rapid City, and I look forward to the journey that you and your people will take together. You and the people of this Diocese are ready to do what your episcopal motto says: To “Rise, and be on your way”, carrying on the work of the Gospel. In all of this, may the Virgin Mary continue to be your companion and guide.

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

¹ Pope Francis, Letter on the Role of Literature in Formation, 17 July 2024; cf. C.S. Lewis, *An Experiment in Criticism*.