

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE MOST REVEREND KEVIN KENNEY
AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL – ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 28, 2024**

Your Excellency Archbishop Hebda and all of my brother bishops; dear priests and deacons; consecrated women and men; members of the faithful; dear friends:

I was recently recalling that this Archdiocese has been a frequent destination for me during my eight years as Nuncio. There have been many reasons to celebrate here!

Today's celebration is another occasion of joy, as we witness the ordination of Fr. Kevin Kenney as Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Congratulations to you, Bishop-elect Kenney; and congratulations to everyone in this Archdiocese.

In his most recent Message for the annual World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said the following:

“We are called in every circumstance to be *friends of the poor*, following in the footsteps of Jesus who always began by showing solidarity when dealing with the least among us.”¹

Bishop-elect Kenney: In appointing you to be a bishop, Pope Francis has chosen a friend of the poor to be a shepherd for his people. Your service among those who are endangered, overlooked, and excluded has given you a sensitivity for people's poverty, which is sometimes material poverty, but can also take on many different forms. God has anointed you to be a messenger of the hope that comes from the personal love and compassion that God has for each one of us. Each of us, in his or her own way, experiences poverty of some sort; and God is there to provide for us.

¹ Pope Francis, Message for the Eighth World Day of the Poor, 13 June 2024, 10.

As bishop, assisting in the ministry of Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Izen, the good news that you have brought to your parish communities and various apostolates as a priest, you will be able to share with an even wider segment of God's people.

Together with the people of this Archdiocese, I express my gratitude for your "yes" to this call, and I commend you to the grace of the Lord for the ministry that he has prepared you for.

Now, I will read an English translation of the letter from the Pope appointing you as Auxiliary Bishop.