



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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STATEMENT

DATE: November 23, 2022

RE: Pope Francis' Appointment of Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, STD as the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island

FROM: Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, STD, auxiliary bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre

On this eve of the Thanksgiving Feast, I give thanks to almighty God "from Whom all blessings flow!"

I am grateful to His Holiness, Pope Francis, for the call to serve as coadjutor bishop in the Diocese of Providence. I am also grateful Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, and to Bishop Barres for his encouragement and mentoring. I give thanks for the opportunity to learn from Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, and I give thanks for the priestly and episcopal witness of Bishop Robert Evans who retires today.

I give thanks for the many people who have offered me their love and their witness of lived faith. I think of my family and friends, brother priests, and all the men and women who have inspired and sustained me, sharing in the work of proclaiming the Gospel.

Even as I feel such profound gratitude, I also acknowledge my sadness at leaving Long Island and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Ordained by Bishop McGann, mentored by Bishop Murphy, enriched by close collaboration with Bishop Barres, and sharing priestly ministry with a remarkable presbyterate, I will be ever grateful for the gift of these thirty years.

This is a moment of deep reflection and the humble acknowledgement of my dependence upon Divine Providence. As I express gratitude, I entrust myself to the grace of our merciful God and ask the Lord to grant the strength and faith necessary for the ministry that I will exercise in the Church of Providence.

Our Lady of Providence, pray for us...