



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

50 North Park Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

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### STATEMENT

DATE: January 31, 2019

RE: Announcement of Bishop-Designate Robert Brennan's Appointment to the Diocese of Columbus

FROM: Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre

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Bishop-Designate Robert Brennan has a blend of holiness, missionary fire, humility, intelligence and pastoral experience that will serve the mission of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Columbus in an extraordinary way.

Bishop Brennan dedicated himself as a young priest to learning Spanish and he has been a beloved leader of our diverse Hispanic community on Long Island helping to shepherd the community through the tragic experience of gang violence and constantly advocating for comprehensive immigration reform. He was part of a USCCB delegation of Bishops that visited the Texas-Mexico Border in July 2018 and supported so many people and ministries during the visit.

Bishop Brennan has been a champion of Catholic Education on Long Island and nationally and sees the Catholic Education experience as a critical component of the New Evangelization that requires an intentional and strategic approach to Catholic identity and mission, academic excellence, enrollment and retention, marketing and advancement, and board development.

Bishop Brennan has served for many years on the Board of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. His commitment to the healing mission of the Catholic Church has been expressed in his integral strategic leadership of Catholic health care and commitment to the Catholic principles, moral theology and Catholic Social Justice teaching that drive the mission.

Bishop Brennan was at the heart of a group that planned the St. Charles Borromeo seminary partnership between the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He has a passion for seminary formation and vocation recruitment and will be a great asset in serving the mission of the Pontifical Josephinum Seminary and College.

Bishop Brennan has a great love for University Campus ministry and has mentored many priests, campus ministers and university students on Long Island. He was instrumental in bringing the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) to Stony Brook University. We cannot wait to hear about his evangelizing efforts and pastoral presence at *The Ohio State University* and the other university campuses in the Diocese of Columbus.

Bishop Brennan above all is a loving pastor and humble Gospel servant with an insightful, intelligent and compassionate pastoral charity and a non-stop New Evangelization missionary spirit.



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The Church of the Diocese of Rockville Centre expresses its solidarity and prayers with Bishop Brennan and the Diocese of Columbus as we rejoice together and give thanks to the Holy Spirit and to Pope Francis for this historic appointment.