



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 John O. Barres, JCL, STD, Bishop of Rockville Centre

Bishop Richard Henning is a wise pastor, a gifted theologian, and a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. In him, the Diocese of Providence truly receives a good shepherd.

An erudite Biblical scholar with a powerful mind, Bishop Henning combines a deep knowledge of the Scriptures with a tremendous passion for the Word of God. He is a talented teacher and has shared his love for God's Word in classes and courses throughout his priesthood, most especially as a seminary professor.

Bishop Henning loves being a priest, and he loves the priesthood. During his years working in priestly formation, he proved himself an insightful and extraordinary formator, able at once to inspire, encourage, and challenge those preparing for Holy Orders. Later in the work of ongoing formation and most recently as Vicar for Clergy Personnel, he has served his brothers with fraternal charity, reverence, and understanding.

As Vicar for Pastoral Planning, Bishop Henning's imaginative gifts have proven invaluable. In this role, his awareness of the realities facing the Church is met always with hopefulness, creativity, and an abiding trust in the power of the Gospel.

Bishop Henning developed his outstanding Spanish language skills during his first assignment in order to serve the Hispanic community at the parish. His diligent study then set in motion a priesthood devoted to Hispanic ministry. He has a beautiful heart for the Hispanic community and has been greatly enriched by this ministry.



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After attending Holy Name of Mary School, Bishop Henning was formed by the Marianists at Chaminade High School. Their charism for teaching and educating runs in Bishop Henning's veins. He is a champion of Catholic education. Ever grateful for the gift he received, he has been a strong driver of the Morningstar Initiative to revitalize Catholic education in Rockville Centre. Over the years, Bishop Henning's many talents have been recognized and called upon across the country. He has presented to numerous presbyterates, become a trusted voice in the field of ongoing priestly and deacon formation, and has become expert in the care of international priests who so generously serve in the United States and for whom Bishop Henning has deep admiration. In recent years, he has served his brother bishops in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on various committees and subcommittees.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre formed Bishop Henning in the Faith he so generously shares and for thirty years was the beneficiary of his dedicated, refined, and courageous priestly and episcopal ministry. With deep gratitude for his friendship and service among us, we promise prayers as he puts out into the deep and serves the people of God in Providence.