



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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STATEMENT

DATE: March 3, 2020

RE: Bishop-elect Luis Miguel Romero

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

With deep joy I am pleased to share with you the announcement made this morning in the Vatican that His Holiness Pope Francis has given the Diocese of Rockville Centre a new auxiliary bishop. Please join me in prayerfully congratulating Idente Missionary Father Luis Miguel Romero as the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

We will celebrate the centenary of Saint John Paul II's birth on May 18, 2020. In his Apostolic Exhortation on the role of the bishop in the Church entitled *Pastores Gregis* (2003), he writes: "The pastoral ministry received in episcopal consecration, which sets the bishop 'before' the other faithful, finds expression in his 'being for' the other members of the faithful while not detracting from his 'being with' them." I cannot think of a better description of Bishop-elect Romero's pastoral charity and leadership, and his humble and joyful missionary spirit. It will be a joy to ordain him a Bishop.

With a humble spirit, Bishop-elect Romero is a true intellectual with the 'smell of the sheep'. He is a global churchman who lives the Idente missionary charism in an inspirational way. Bishop-elect Romero has an exceptional capacity, with his extensive academic background in religion and science, to address how the truths of the Catholic faith in regard to the Gospel of Life, Catholic Social Justice teaching and the Church's advocacy in history of ethical scientific development need to be brought directly and compellingly into the public square.

Bishop-elect Romero's pastoral artistry and evangelizing leadership as pastor of the Parish of Our Lady of Loretto in Hempstead will translate well in his new role of assisting me and my brother bishops in the pastoral care of the diocese, tending to the pastoral and spiritual needs of a diverse population of more than 1.4 million Catholics. He will continue to serve as the recently appointed Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization.

On the parish level, Bishop-elect Romero has embraced the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Encuentro process. His hands-on Encuentro experience can serve as an example to many of the 133 parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

I wish to express my deepest thanks to the Holy Father for this appointment to help pastor this, the eighth largest diocese in the nation.