

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
OF THE MOST REVEREND PETER MUHICH
AS NINTH BISHOP OF RAPID CITY,
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, JULY 9, 2020**

Your Excellency Bernard A. Hebda, Metropolitan Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Your Excellency Bishop Robert Gruss, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Rapid City, Dear Friends in Christ:

I am truly pleased to be with you this afternoon as Father Peter Muhich is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry here as Bishop of Rapid City. Father Muhich has distinguished himself as a priest of Duluth and the Rector of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary. We express our gratitude to the Diocese of Duluth. The Holy Father has recognized his gifts and has called him to shepherd this Church of Rapid City.

Allow me to express my gratitude for the episcopal ministry of Bishop Robert Gruss, who shepherded this Diocese for eight years until his appointment to Saginaw. Your Excellency, thank you. Let me also express my gratitude to the Diocesan Administrator, Father Michel Mulloy, who has labored for a whole year in his role. Father, we are grateful for your service.

Your Excellency, as you begin your episcopal ministry here, I place before you the words of Nicholas Black Elk, whose cause for canonization has been opened: **"Our Savior did not live on Earth to no purpose. But since he would complete all things during 40 days, he suffered thinking everything over. And for the sake of our souls, we believed in him and, it now being the time when he beg a prayer for us. There would be suitable leaders he organized for us, a fellowship (a church). He bade us receive, accept the faith, bade us believe something forever. He chose 12 men, sent them to all nations, and our Lord, as he bade them all to do, so they did. As it is for us, they died. And only one of the apostles, St. John did not die. In the end he made one to be a preacher for them. He kept saying: "Love everyone." Many times, they continued telling this word to them. The message even to this day holy men stand holding to it. Jesus said to the Twelve to wash one another 's feet. "Each of you do this.""**

Christ promised that He would give shepherds to His Church. You have been called and sent to this people: to offer your life for them in the service of the Gospel; to wash the feet of the Disciples; and to proclaim to all the new commandment to love one another.

As you lead this People on the journey of Faith, know of our prayers and heartfelt best wishes. May Our Lady of Perpetual Help intercede for you and give you her kind assistance as you lead the People of God in Rapid City to encounter the Savior of the World.

And now, with great joy, I will read the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.