Your Excellency Archbishop Pérez, Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia; Your Excellency Bishop Gainer; all my brother Archbishops and Bishops; dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, and Members of the Faithful; Dear Friends:

“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). These words of St. Paul are fulfilled once again for the people of God in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Your prayers, filled with hope, have been heard by God and have been answered with the election of Bishop Timothy Senior as the 12th Bishop of this Diocese. Bishop Gainer, thank you for your service to the Diocese of Harrisburg during the last nine years, for your 20 years of service as a Bishop, and congratulations on 50 years as a priest.

Bishop Senior, your lifelong formation and your 38 years as a priest have included many experiences which have prepared you well to become the Bishop of Harrisburg – including your background in social work and business administration, your work with the archdiocesan clergy, your leadership in the formation of men for the priesthood, and the pastoral and administrative assistance you have given to several archbishops in your role as Auxiliary Bishop.

In your episcopal motto, you echo the words that St. Paul spoke to his disciple, another bishop named Timothy, when he said: “I know in whom I have believed” (2 Tim 1:12). As you continue to know, and to trust, in God who has brought you this far, you can be sure that his Divine Mercy will remain upon you, and that he will guard and bless the ministry that has been entrusted to you.

And so, with much joy, I will now read the Papal Decree appointing you as Bishop of Harrisburg.