

**REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE**  
**AT THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF**  
**THE MOST REVEREND ITALO DELL'ORO, C.R.S.**  
**AS AUXILIARY BISHOP OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON**  
**CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**JULY 2, 2021**

Your Eminence Cardinal Daniel DiNardo , Your Excellency Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the Bishops Conference, Your Excellency Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you today in this Co-Cathedral Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, as Father Italo dell'Oro is ordained to the fullness of the priesthood and begins his ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, an Archdiocese that continues to grow in number and diversity. Bishop-elect dell'Oro will continue to be a close collaborator of the Chief Shepherd of this Local Church, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo. He has already proven himself as a missionary; as a Pastor; as Vicar for Clergy, showing concern for the life and health of the priests; and, most recently as Vicar General.

I am delighted to be with you on this Feast of the Apostle Thomas, whose question at the Last Supper, was an occasion for Jesus to reveal Himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and, who, after the Resurrection, although having initial doubts, also made a great proclamation of faith in the Risen Lord, crying out "My Lord and My God," revealing the Divine Mercy of the Risen Lord.

Dear Auxiliary Bishop-elect dell'Oro, you have already made a significant contribution to this Archdiocese, but now the Holy Father has asked you to assist Cardinal DiNardo, calling you to the Order of Bishop. With great generosity, you have accepted this calling, which in the present day is filled not only with many joys but also with challenges.

On this occasion as you begin your ministry, I wish to place before you the words of Saint Jerome Emiliani, the founder of the Somascan Fathers, who dedicated themselves to care for the poor, orphans, and the abandoned, as you assist His Eminence in showing forth the tenderness of God: **"God wishes to test you like gold in the furnace. The dross is consumed by the fire, but the pure gold remains and its value increases. It is in this manner that God acts with His good servant, who puts his hope in Him and remains unshaken in times of distress. God raises him up and, in return for the things he has left out of**

**love for God, He repays him a hundred-fold in this life with eternal life hereafter. This is the way God has dealt with all His saints. So it was with His people Israel after their period of trial in Egypt. He not only led them out of Egypt with many miracles and fed them with manna in the desert, He also gave them the promised land. If then you remain constant in faith in the face of trial, the Lord will give you peace and rest for a time in this world, and forever in the next.”** (Letter of Saint Jerome Emiliani to his brothers, 21 June 1535)

At the dawn of your episcopal ministry, we pray that the Lord would grant you both peace and joy, which flow from His Most Sacred Heart. I commend you to the Holy Mother of God and Saint Jerome Emiliani, wishing you every blessing.

And now, with great joy, I will read for you a translation of each of the Apostolic Letters of Appointment.