



The Diocese of Knoxville

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Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

May 7, 2024

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His Mercy endures forever.” (Ps. 107:1)

To all the faithful of the Diocese of Knoxville,

I am writing to you with great joy on this day when the Papal Nuncio announced that our Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Reverend Mark Beckman as the Fourth Bishop of Knoxville. I invite each one of you to join me in grateful prayers to Our Lord Jesus Christ for this great blessing that He has bestowed upon us.

Since August, we have together prayed to receive a new Bishop at the end of each Mass that has been celebrated in the Diocese of Knoxville. Our prayer has been answered, and I am now writing to ask that we together begin to pray for a new intention, namely for Bishop-elect Beckman as he prepares for his Episcopal ordination and begin his new ministry in this wonderful Diocese. I therefore ask that in place of the Prayer to Receive a New Bishop, the following prayer be prayed after the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel at the conclusion of all Masses until Bishop-elect Beckman's ordination and installation on July 26, 2024:

Prayer for Bishop-Elect Mark Beckman

Praise to you, Lord our God,
our Eternal Shepherd and Guide,
who has chosen your servant, Mark Beckman,
as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville.

As he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher,
May your Holy Spirit fill his heart with wisdom and strength,
gentleness and compassion, so that he may always walk in your ways
and be a true shepherd after Your own Heart.

As Bishop-Elect Beckman prepares to make his home with us,
help us to welcome him with joy, and be attentive to his guidance,
so that he may lead us in being Christ's heart of mercy, voice of hope,
and hands of justice, so that we together may build up your Holy Church.
We pray through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Let us continue to pray for each other, and in a special way for Bishop-elect Beckman that God may grant him all the graces he needs to faithfully carry out this task entrusted to his care.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Knoxville

