



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

April 2, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last month, everyone in our local Church shared a moment of great joy with the Episcopal Ordination of our three new auxiliary bishops, Most Reverend Keith J. Chylinski, Most Reverend Christopher R. Cooke, and Most Reverend Efren V. Esmilla. During this Easter Season, we continue to rejoice in thanksgiving for the gift of our newest bishops. They are men of deep faith, great humility, and their hearts are on fire to serve as Missionary Disciples for Jesus Christ.

The Church of Philadelphia is a large, vibrant, and richly diverse family. My ministry as Archbishop would be impossible without the dedicated service of our auxiliary bishops. Like every bishop, they are successors of the Apostles. Their apostolic presence and episcopal charism nourish the Church in a unique way.

Over the past several weeks, Bishop Chylinski, Bishop Cooke, and Bishop Esmilla have been celebrating confirmations and taking time to be among God's people while continuing to serve in their current assignments. They have also been quite busy on the administrative front attending monthly meetings with me in addition to weekly meetings with the other Bishops and Senior Staff; the College of Deans; the Priest Personnel Board; the Priest Council; and College of Consultors.

I know that many of you are eager to learn more about the additional assignments they will take on. More information will be forthcoming in June when the annual clergy assignments are announced. For now, the new auxiliary bishops will continue serving in their current roles while working closely with me. It is important for Bishops Chylinski and Cooke to provide continued leadership at the Seminary and to prepare for a smooth transition at this exciting time for that house for formation. Likewise, it is important for Bishop Esmilla to provide continued pastoral care to the parish communities he leads.

Please join me in continued prayer that our new bishops will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as successors to the Apostles.

May God abundantly bless you with the peace and joy of the Easter Season!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia