



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

PROCLAMATION

The thirty first day of August the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

To the good people of the Eparchy of Parma, and to everyone in the Catholic Church:

“Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of Mercies and God of all consolation!”

It is with the greatest joy that I inform you that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed the Very Rev. Robert Mark Pipta as the sixth Bishop of Parma. Father Pipta is a priest of the Eparchy of Phoenix and has been serving honorably as the Rector of our seminary in Pittsburgh, Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

During the past seven months, I have come to know and admire and love the good people of the Eparchy of Parma, including clergy, religious, and lay people. Having become affectionate towards the Eparchy, I am very consoled to know that the Holy Father has chosen Father Pipta. I have known the Bishop Elect since 1990 when he entered our seminary in Pittsburgh. I also know his father who was the cantor at our Anaheim parish for decades. Father Pipta was born and raised in our Ruthenian Byzantine Church and has given his entire life to service for the Body of Christ in our Church since his priestly ordination on April 21, 1994. He is a man of humility, integrity, good humor, and absolute dedication to Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Bishop Elect has chosen to be consecrated on November 8, the Feast of St. Michael and all the Holy Incorporeal Powers. I look forward to handing over the governance of the Eparchy to the new bishop, with confidence and peace of mind, knowing that he will be a good shepherd to his flock.

May the Lord God grant to his high priestly servant Robert peace, health, and happiness for many blessed and fruitful years! Mnohaja i blahaja l'ita.

+ Kurt

Most Rev. Kurt Richard Burnette, PhD, JD, JCL
Apostolic Administrator of Parma
Bishop of Passaic

