

Aug. 15, 2024

Text of Message from the Representative of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

Rev. Msgr. Giosuè Busti

Deputy Head of Mission to the Apostolic Nuncio

(Spoken to the congregation near the end of the Solemn Rite of Canonical Possession and Installation of the Most Reverend Ryan Pagente Jimenez, DD

Fourth Archbishop of Agaña)

Your Eminence Cardinal Alves Aguiar

Your Excellency Archbishop Ryan,

Your Excellencies,

Reverend Fathers, Deacons and Sisters,

Civil Authorities,

People of God,

It is a huge privilege for me to be here in Guam on this happy occasion of the installation of the new Archbishop of Agaña, and I am honoured to bring the greetings and blessing of the Holy Father Francis to all here present.

Under the guidance and protection of the Virgin Mary, who is venerated here under the name of Our Lady of Camarin, this island shines with the gift of faith and love for God. The presence of the Roman Catholic Church is longstanding and honoured by the passing of a saint, Pedro Calungsod, of a blessed martyr, Diego Luis de San Vitores, along with many others, who have served and loved God with their whole lives over the decades.

I am well aware, unfortunately, that the last few years have been difficult, full of challenges and have left deep wounds. The boat of this diocese found itself in a stormy sea, and even here it seemed as if the Lord was asleep.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked so hard to keep the life of the Archdiocese going in these tough times. In particular, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Fr Romeo Convocar, who has led the community since the departure of Archbishop Michael Byrnes.

Today begins a new, long journey of healing and reconciliation, which must rebuild the credibility of the Church, and which starts from what is indeed essential: the encounter with the risen Lord.

I exhort the entire archdiocese to unity: priests, deacons, religious, laity. Unity is the fruit of the ability to listen and make room for the other, in the synodal spirit that the Pope calls us to live.

I want to underline this with the words of Pope Francis, who has said several times, since his first audience with the cardinals on 15 March 2013, that the Holy Spirit is the one who makes unity out of differences, not in 'uniformity', but in harmony.

May the Holy Spirit be poured out upon you and lead you to this harmony.

Dear Archbishop Ryan, I am sure that the Holy See's trust in you has been well placed and I encourage you to do your best, with the grace of God, in this new assignment, always putting the good of the souls entrusted to you first.

To the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Camarin, that you have chosen to honour by choosing this day for your installation, I entrust this Archdiocese and your ministry.

I want to thank all those who worked hard to prepare this magnificent celebration and for the amazing organisation of these days.

I thank you for your wonderful welcome and wish you every blessing in Christ on your future journey.

Thank you.