

SOLEMN HIGH MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM FOR THE
FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INSTALLATION OF FATHER ARNAUD DEVILLERS, F.S.S.P., AS PASTOR OF
ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH
QUINCY, ILLINOIS
January 1, 2014

† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Today is a historic day here in the city of Quincy in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois as we celebrate the Installation of your new Pastor, Father Arnaud DeVillers, as he takes canonical possession of this newly established Parish of St. Rose of Lima on the first day of its existence. That opening sentence may seem puzzling to the casual observer, as St. Rose of Lima Church has been here for many years and Father DeVillers has been providing pastoral care here for several of those years. What is new is the canonical status that I have decreed for this parish and therefore what is different is the canonical office into which Father DeVillers is about to be installed.

It should be noted at the outset that I am not simply reopening a parish that had been closed by my predecessor. What is being established here today is something entirely new. Canon 515 of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* defines a parish as “a definite community of the Christian faithful

established on a stable basis within a particular church; the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop." Canon 518 further specifies that, as "a general rule, a parish is to be territorial, that is, it embraces all the Christian faithful within a certain territory; whenever it is judged useful, however, personal parishes are to be established based upon rite, language, the nationality of the Christian faithful within some territory or even upon some other determining factor." It is the latter that I have established, that is, not a territorial parish, but a personal parish based upon a determining factor.

As my canonical decree of establishment states, I have consulted with the priests of the Quincy Deanery, in particular the pastors of the neighboring parishes, and have heard the advice of the Presbyteral Council, which voted unanimously on November 25, 2013 by a vote of 13-yes, 0-no, and 0-abstentions to recommend the establishment of Saint Rose of Lima as a personal parish in Quincy in accord with canon 518 for the pastoral needs of those persons who have an affinity for the celebration of the sacred liturgy according to the extraordinary form. In accord with this unanimous recommendation, as Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, I have decreed the canonical establishment of a

personal parish, to be named St. Rose of Lima Parish, in Quincy, Illinois, effective January 1, 2014, for those persons in the Quincy area and the surrounding vicinity who have an affinity for the celebration of the sacred liturgy according to the extraordinary form and to provide these faithful with the pastoral solicitude expressed in the motu proprio *Ecclesia Dei* of June 30, 1988, and augmented in the motu proprio *Summorum Pontificum* of July 7, 2007.

It is a great blessing that Father Arnaud DeVillers and Father Robert Fromageot have said yes to the call to serve as Pastor and Parochial Vicar, respectively, of this new canonical parish. I am grateful to them and to the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter for the gift of their priestly ministry.

The installation of a new pastor reminds me of the great privilege I had in serving as the pastor of a parish from 2001 to 2003. My Mass of Installation was in February of 2001, near the start of the new millennium. Father DeVillers will now serve you as pastor within this Third Millennium, so I think it is fitting to call to mind a theme suggested by our late Holy Father, the Great Pope Blessed John Paul II, soon to be Saint John Paul II, in his Apostolic Letter, *NOVO MILLENNIO INEUNTE*, "On entering the New Millennium," which I quote as follows (nos. 30-31): "First

of all, I have no hesitation in saying that all pastoral initiatives must be set in relation to *holiness*. . . . To ask catechumens: 'Do you wish to receive Baptism?' means at the same time to ask them: 'Do you wish to become holy?' It means to set before them the radical nature of the Sermon on the Mount: 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect' (*Mt 5:48*)".

Pope John Paul II used to send a letter every year to all the priests of the Church on the occasion of Holy Thursday. In 2001, he wrote this to his priests:

"At this time, I am thinking of the work you do every day, work that is often hidden and, without making headlines, causes the kingdom of God to advance in people's minds and hearts. I want you to know of my admiration for this ministry, discreet, tenacious and creative, even if it is sometimes watered by those tears of the soul which only God sees and 'stores in his bottle.' Your ministry is all the more admirable when it is tested by the resistance of a widely secularized environment, which subjects priestly activity to the temptations of fatigue and discouragement. You well know that such daily commitment is precious in the eyes of God. At the same time, I wish to echo the voice of Christ who continually calls us to deepen our relationship with him. 'Behold, I stand at the door and

knock' (Rev. 3:20)."¹ Referring to his Apostolic Letter that I mentioned earlier, the Pope continued, "In *Novo Millennio Ineunte* I indicated the commitment to holiness as the first element of all wise pastoral 'planning.' It is the basic task of all believers, so how much more it must be for us!"²

The practical steps on the path to holiness applicable to all the Christian faithful involve following a basic plan of life. Some of these steps require daily application, such as praying a Morning Offering at the beginning of the day, the Angelus at 12:00 and 6:00 o'clock, grace before meals, an examination of conscience, an act of contrition and a prayer of thanksgiving at bedtime. Praying the Rosary, doing acts of penance, giving to charity and reading the Bible and other spiritual books should be done on a regular basis, if not daily. Everyone must participate in Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist at least once a week on Sunday to be nourished in the faith and strengthened in the bonds of communion with the Body of Christ, but many people attend Mass every day, especially during Lent, in order to obtain its bountiful graces and support for daily life. In my opinion, going to the Sacrament of Penance to confess and be absolved of our sins is something that we should do at least monthly to be reconciled with God and with His Church.

The path to holiness does not stop with specifically religious and spiritual activities, but extends into our daily lives at home, at school and at work. While the “universal call to holiness” was highlighted at the Second Vatican Council fifty years ago, St. Francis de Sales wrote almost 400 years ago in his classic spiritual masterpiece, *The Introduction to the Devout Life*, that holiness is possible in all walks of life, under any circumstance and at all times. Whatever the tasks we have to perform in the world we are all called to be saints. Holiness is not the prerogative of the monks, nuns and parish priests, but of all. Everyone is called to live a life of holiness. Every human being is called to enter into living, loving and vibrant relationship with God, each according to his or her status in life.

As I appoint a priest from France as your new Pastor, I note that Pope Benedict XVI held up for us St. John Vianney as an exemplar and the epitome of parish priests. Appointed pastor of the parish of Ars in France, a town of 230 people, Vianney came to be known internationally, and people from distant places began traveling to consult him as early as 1827. By 1855, the number of pilgrims had reached twenty thousand a year. During the last ten years of his life, he spent sixteen to eighteen hours a day

in the confessional. His life calls us to a renewed appreciation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In his letter proclaiming 2009 as the Year for Priests, Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “‘*The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus,*’ the saintly Curé of Ars would often say. This touching expression makes us reflect, first of all, with heartfelt gratitude on the immense gift which priests represent, not only for the Church, but also for humanity itself. I think of all those priests who quietly present Christ’s words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world, striving to be one with the Lord in their thoughts and their will, their sentiments and their style of life. How can I not pay tribute to their apostolic labors, their tireless and hidden service, their universal charity? And how can I not praise the courageous fidelity of so many priests who, even amid difficulties and incomprehension, remain faithful to their vocation as ‘friends of Christ,’ whom he has called by name, chosen and sent?”³

In his homily at the Chrism Mass this past March in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis said, “Dear lay faithful, be close to your priests with affection and with your prayers, that they may always be shepherds according to God’s heart. Dear priests, may God the Father renew in us the

Spirit of holiness with whom we have been anointed. May he renew his Spirit in our hearts, that this anointing may spread to everyone, even to those ‘outskirts’ where our faithful people most look for it and most appreciate it. May our people sense that we are the Lord’s disciples; may they feel that their names are written upon our priestly vestments and that we seek no other identity; and may they receive through our words and deeds the oil of gladness which Jesus, the Anointed One, came to bring us.”⁴

Therefore, dear parishioners of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, I urge you to strive for holiness, to work and pray with your new pastor. Support him, help him, pray for him, and most of all, love him as he loves you and as Christ calls us to love each other.

May God give us this grace. Amen.

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Letters to My Brother Priests: Complete Collection of Holy Thursday Letters (1979-2005)* (Woodridge, Illinois: Midwest Theological Forum, 2006), p. 289.

² Pope John Paul II, *Letters to My Brother Priests*, p. 292.

³ Pope Benedict XVI, *Letter Proclaiming a Year for Priests on the 150th Anniversary of the “Dies Natalis”* of the Curé of Ars, June 16, 2009.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Chrism Mass Homily*, St. Peter’s Basilica, Holy Thursday, March 28, 2013.