The Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend James Francis Checchio as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen

Mass of Ordination on the Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

3 May 2016 1:30PM
Church of the Sacred Heart
South Plainfield, New Jersey
Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Please refrain from flash or light-aided photography or video recorders during the liturgy. Thank you.
The Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò

Apostolic Nuncio to the United States
The Most Reverend John J. Myers
ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK, ORDAINING BISHOP
The Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski
Bishop Emeritus and Co-Consecrator
The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan
Bishop of Camden and Co-Consecrator
The Most Reverend James Francis Checchio

Bishop-elect
For his episcopal motto, Bishop Checchio has chosen these Latin words taken from St. Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians: Pro Christo ergo legatione fungimur, tamquam Deo exhortante per nos. Obsecramus pro Christo, reconciliamini Deo – We are ambassadors in Christ’s stead, so that it is as though God is admonishing through us. In Christ’s stead we pray: Be reconciled to God. During the great Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop Checchio has chosen this motto which recalls St. Paul’s appeal for us to continue this central mission for which Jesus was sent by the Father.

In the heraldic shield, right and left are exchanged from the observer point of view since we have to consider the right and the left of the soldier who, in ancient time used to hold his own shield. On the right side of the shield, we find represented the Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Metuchen which is based on both the arms of the See of Trenton, NJ, from which it was separated as well as those of Saint John Paul II, the pope who erected the diocese on November 19, 1981.

The shield is divided into four quadrants representing the four counties of Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren that comprise the diocesan territory. The gold and silver colors, also shown in heraldry as yellow and white, respectively, are the colors used on the flag of the Vatican City State. Because of this, they are known as the papal colors.

The cross Moline is taken from the arms of the See of Trenton. This shape of the cross is often associated with the Order of St. Benedict in heraldry. Its blue color here is the reverse of the Trenton arms, which depict a gold cross on a blue field.

In the upper left of the shield, there is a red tongue of fire: the word “Metuchen” is derived from the Lenne Lenape Indian word “metachen”, which means, “firewood”. In addition this symbol is associated with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost.

In the lower right, we see a blue letter “M” surmounted by a silver crown: also the monogram for Mary, Our Queen. The diocese is under the patronage of the Queenship of Mary. In addition, the crown is taken from the arms of Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, the founding bishop of Metuchen, who was ordained to the priesthood on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. The “M” also appears in the arms of Saint John Paul II.

The left side is occupied by the personal arms of Bishop Checchio. This part of the shield is in blue (Azure), the color which symbolizes the separation from the worldly values and the ascent of the soul toward God, therefore the run of the celestial virtues which raise themselves from the things of the earth toward the sky.

The chevron is an heraldic device, best described as an inverted “V”, and is one of the most ancient figures in Roman Catholic Church heraldry; it signifies the rafter, which holds the roof of the church, and symbolizes the concept of protection, which is the responsibility of the bishop who teaches, governs and sanctifies. The chevron is in silver (argent), the color of transparency, also of truth and justice, which are fundamental requirements of the Bishop’s pastoral service.

Under the chevron, we find a sheep debruised by a shepherd’s crook to represent the ten years of forming men for the priesthood as Rector at the Pontifical North American College in Rome before being entrusted with the flock of the People of God of the Diocese of Metuchen.

The shell, a symbol of St. James, recalls the name of the Bishop and that of his father, who with his mother, Helen, presented their son for baptism and raised him in the faith. The crescent moon appears on the coat of arms of the Diocese of Camden, where Bishop Checchio was born and brought up in the Catholic faith and for whose service the Bishop was ordained a priest. Moreover, the silver crescent honors Our Blessed Mother, in her title of the Immaculate Conception; this charge also appears on the arms of the Pontifical North American College, where the Bishop was formed for the priesthood and later served as Rector.
Normally, the ordination of a bishop takes place in the cathedral church, which is the mother church for all Catholics within a diocese. In order to accommodate the largest number of people, today’s ordination was moved to a church building that seats a larger number than our cathedral.

The word “cathedral” is derived from the Latin word cathedra, meaning chair. Since ancient times, a throne or chair has symbolized authority. In the Catholic Church, the bishop’s cathedra represents his governing, sanctifying and teaching authority. The cathedra in the sanctuary today is the original cathedra installed in the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in 1982 when the Diocese of Metuchen was established.

As a special reminder of our cathedral church and its close connection to the pastoral ministry of the Bishop, we have brought from the Cathedral for today’s celebration the Paschal Candle and altar candles and placed them near the ambo and altar.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI, METUCHEN

The present Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi is the third church built on the site. The first was a wooden building dedicated in 1871 and seating 225 people. At the time, the Borough of Metuchen was part of the Diocese of Newark and the church was a mission served by priests in New Brunswick. The parish of St. Francis of Assisi was officially incorporated in January 1878. This church served parishioners until December 21, 1903, when an oil lamp overturned during a choir Christmas rehearsal and the resulting fire destroyed the church.

A second wooden church was dedicated in December 1904. Metuchen was now part of the Diocese of Trenton. By 1960 St. Francis Parish boasted more than 2000 families and plans were approved to build a larger church. Following the demolition of the wooden church and a fire that burned down Columbia Hall (site of the present CYO Hall), Masses were celebrated in local schools, the Forum Theatre, and in neighboring parishes until the new church was completed.

On May 19, 1963, Bishop George Ahr of Trenton dedicated the current Church of St. Francis of Assisi, which has a seating capacity of 1000. The church was consecrated by Bishop John Reiss of Trenton on October 5, 1980.

On Tuesday morning, November 24, 1981, Monsignor Dominic A. Turtora, the pastor of St. Francis Parish received a telephone call from Bishop Reiss advising him of the partitioning of the Diocese of Trenton and the creation of the new Diocese of Metuchen. The Bishop further informed Monsignor Turtora that the Church of St. Francis of Assisi would be the cathedral church of the new diocese. There have been four rectors of the Cathedral: Monsignor Turtora (1981 - 1995); Monsignor Richard A. Behl (1995 - 2007); Monisgnor Michael J. Alliegro (2007 – 2009); and the current rector, Monsignor Robert J. Zamorski (2009 – present).
Prelude and Processional

WELCOME AND CALL TO PRAYER

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Gilbert Martin

Prayer of St. Francis
Allen Pote

Ave Maria
Franz Biebl

Anthem of Dedication
Warren Martin

The Introductory Rites

ENTRANCE

Be reconciled to God
Tim Keyes

Commissioned for the Ordination of Bishop James Francis Checchio
Corinthians 5: 20

GREETING
PENITENTIAL ACT

CANTOR SINGS INVOCATIONS... ALL RESPOND: Lord have mercy, Kyrie eleison.

CANTOR SINGS INVOCATIONS... ALL RESPOND: Christ have mercy, Christe eleison.

CANTOR SINGS INVOCATIONS... ALL RESPOND: Lord have mercy, Kyrie eleison.

GLORIA

Mass of Renewal

William Gokelman and David Kauffman

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord, Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the
COLLECT

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING
I Corinthians 15:1-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 19
David Haas

SECOND READING
II Corinthians 5:14-20
ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Festival Alleluia
James Chepponis

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
Philip, whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

GOSPEL

John 14:6-14

Following the proclamation of the Gospel, all remain standing

Rite of Ordination

HYMN

Veni Creator Spiritus
chant

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heav’nly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou heav’nly gift of God most high,
Thou Fount of life, and Fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

O Finger of the hand divine,
the sevenfold gifts of grace are thine;
true promise of the Father thou,
who dost the tongue with power endow.

Thy light to every sense impart,
and shed thy love in every heart;
thine own unfailing might supply
to strengthen our infirmity.

Drive far away our ghostly foe,
and thine abiding peace bestow;
if thou be our preventing Guide,
no evil can our steps betide.

Praise we the Father and the Son
and Holy Spirit with them One;
and may the Son on us bestow
the gifts that from the Spirit flow.

PRESENTATION OF THE ELECT

Please be seated

READING OF THE APOSTOLIC MANDATE

All remain seated as the document is read aloud
CONSENT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Blessed be God
David Haas

HOMILY

The Most Reverend Bernard Anthony Hebda
Archbishop-elect of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

PROMISE OF THE ELECT  Please remain seated

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION  Please stand chant

Bishop-elect Checchio prostrates himself before the altar.
As the Litany is sung, the faithful remain standing during Easter Time.

CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.  ALL: Lord, have mercy.
CANTOR: Christ, have mercy.  ALL: Christ, have mercy.
CANTOR: Lord, have mercy.  ALL: Lord, have mercy.
CANTOR: Holy Mary, Mother of God, . . .  ALL: pray for us.
CANTOR: Lord, be merciful . . .  ALL: Lord, de-liv-er us, we pray.
LAYING ON OF HANDS
After the three ordaining Bishops lay hands upon the Bishop-elect, all in the assembly are seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM
The Lord is My Shepherd
Thomas Matthews

PRAYER OF ORDINATION All stand.

ANOINTING OF THE HEAD
AND HANDING ON THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS AND INSIGNIA All are seated.

Archbishop Myers invites Bishop Checchio to sit at the cathedra.

FRATERNAL OFFERING OF THE SIGN OF PEACE

ANTIPHON
Vayan al Mundo / Go Out to the World
Jaime Cortez
The Liturgy of the Eucharist

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Offertory chant

The heavens will proclaim your glory, O Lord, and truth shall spring forth from your holy ones! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory

The Spirit of the Lord
Philip W. J. Stopford

HOLY

Heritage Mass

MYSTERY OF FAITH

AMEN
The Communion Rite

LORD’S PRAYER

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

Heritage Mass

COMMUNION PROCESSIONALS

Lord, show us the Father
chant

Amén. El Cuerpo de Cristo
Jaime Cortez

Ubi caritas
James Biery
The Supper of the Lord
Laurence Rosania

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

EPISCOPAL BLESSING

Holy God, we praise thy name
arr. John Ferguson

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Most Reverend James Francis Checchio
Bishop of Metuchen
The Concluding Rites

GREETING

SOLEMN BLESSING

Bishop Checchio  Blessed be the name of the Lord.
ALL             Now and forever.
Bishop Checchio  Our help is in the name of the Lord.
ALL             Who made heaven and earth.

DISMISSAL

CONCLUDING HYMN

Regina caeli chant

PROCESSION

“Hallelujah” from Mount of Olives
Ludwig van Beethoven

Prelude to Te Deum
Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Praise the Lord
Marc-Antoine Charpentier
Ministers of the Liturgy

*Ordaining Bishop*  The Most Reverend John J. Myers

*Co-Consecrators*  The Most Reverend Paul Gregory Bootkoski  The Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan

In the Presence of Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church

*Bishop-elect*  The Most Reverend James Francis Checchio

*Apostolic Nunciature*  The Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò  Reverend Monsignor Walter Erbi

*Homilist*  The Most Reverend Bernard Anthony Hebda

*Concelebrating*  Visiting Archbishops, Bishops, and Priests  Priests of the Diocese of Metuchen


*Reception of the Apostolic Letter*  Lori Albanese, *Chancellor*

*Priest Assistants to Bishop-elect*  Reverend William Byrne  Reverend Robert Hughes  Reverend Monsignor James Tracy  Reverend Austin Vetter

*Chaplains to the Cardinals*  Prelates of Honor and Chaplains to His Holiness

*Deacon of the Word*  Deacon Roy Quesea

*Deacon of the Eucharist*  Deacon Mauricio Tabera

*Chaplains*  Deacon Mhonchan Ezung  Deacon Stephen Kern

*Readers*  Sister Marjorie Smith, RSM  Sister Marianne McCann, MFP
Presentation of the Bread and Wine
Monica Demkovitz
Erin Friedlander

Music Ministry
Thomas A. DeLessio, Director of Music
William R. Berg, Organist
Justin Connors, Cantor
Daria Dragon, Cantor
Victoria Lotkowicicz, Cantor
Matthew LaPine, Cantor
Ordination Choir
Madison Brass Quintet & Timpani

Liturgy Assistants
Seminarians of the Diocese of Metuchen

Sacristans
Linda Dalton
Marie Dolinski

Honor Guard
Knights of Columbus
The Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Malta)
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
Catholic War Veterans

Director of the Ordination Liturgy
Anthony Varas, Diocesan Director of Worship

Masters of Ceremonies
Reverend Thomas J. Serafin
Reverend Edmund A. Luciano III
Reverend George A. Farrell
Reverend Michael Fragoso
Reverend John C. Gloss
Reverend Sean W. Kenney
Very Reverend Brian J. Nolan
Reverend Gerardo Paderon
Reverend Jason Pavich
Reverend Charles A. Sabella
Reverend Michael C. Saharic
Reverend Guy W. Selvester

Art & Environment
Megan Poltorak-Keyes

Printing
Design Assistant
Corinna Laughlin

Ministers of Hospitality
From the Church of the Sacred Heart

Assistant for the Ordination Liturgy
Leila Toomey, Office of Worship Coordinator
Special Appreciation

Bishop Checchio extends personal appreciation for the many individuals and organizations who have graciously welcomed him. The following were specifically involved with the Ordination and Installation.

Diocese of Metuchen Staff

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Reverend John P. Alvarado, Pastor of Church of the Sacred Heart and the generous staff from the Parish

Holy Savior Academy Staff

APG Security
  Dennis M. Kelly
  Brian J. Kelly
  Matthew X. Holleran
  Gary Shuman
  Joe Cannatella

State and Local law enforcement agencies
  New Jersey State Police
  Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office
  Edison Township PD
  Metuchen Borough PD
  Piscataway Township PD
  South Plainfield Township PD
  Medical, Fire and EMS Personnel
  St. Peter’s University Hospital
  JFK EMS Ambulance and Rescue
  South Plainfield Township Fire Prevention

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Coverage of the Ordination and Installation of Bishop Checchio will appear in the CATHOLIC SPIRIT the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen.
For information call: 732-562-1990 ext. 1401
website: www.catholicspirit.com
Music Acknowledgements