

**SOLEMN CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF  
MONSIGNOR FRANCIS MALONE  
AS THE THIRD BISHOP OF SHREVEPORT  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020, 2:00 P.M.  
CONVENTION CENTER, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

Your Excellency Metropolitan Gregory Aymond, Your Excellency Bishop Anthony Taylor, Your Excellency Bishop Michael Duca, Your Excellency Bishop Designate Francis Malone, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious, Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Shreveport, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you here for the Consecration and Installation of the third Bishop of Shreveport, His Excellency Francis Malone. I want to express my gratitude to Bishop Michael Duca of Baton Rouge for his years of service as Ordinary of Shreveport and to the Very Reverend Peter Mangum who has served as Administrator of the Diocese for more than a year.

Bishop-Elect Malone, in a recent visit of American Bishops to Rome, the Holy Father told them: “You must be close to God in your prayer and your personal life; you must be close to your priests as a father and walk with them; and you must be close to your people.” (Remarks to Bishops of Ecclesiastical Region I, November 2019)

Your years of experience in the Diocese of Little Rock have taught you what it means to be close to the People of God. These last years as Pastor of Christ the King, have honed your pastoral skills, which complement your administrative gifts. At your press conference, tongue-in-cheek, you said, “I’m a big shot!”

You are a “big shot” with “big responsibilities.” The Big “Big Shot” – Pope Francis – ordained some bishops at the Vatican Basilica and, in the course of his homily, reflected: **“In the Church entrusted to you, be faithful custodians and dispensers of the mysteries of Christ. As the Father has placed you at the head of His family, always follow the example of the Good Shepherd, Who knows His sheep and is known by them and Who did not hesitate to lay down His life for them.”** (March 19, 2018, Feast of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

My Dear Brother, we pray through the intercession of St. John Berchmans, that, you will maintain a spirit of service at the altar and among the People of God, for whom you are called to lay down your life. Today is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas; we invoke his powerful intercession, that you may strengthen the Eucharistic faith of the People of God in Shreveport, so that they may share the joy of the Gospel with those around them.

And now, with great joy, I will read for you a translation of the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.