

**INSTALLATION OF
MOST REVEREND GREGORY J. HARTMAYER, OFM Conv.
AS SEVENTH ARCHBISHOP OF ATLANTA
CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020 AT 12:30 PM
THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING**

Your Excellency Archbishop Hartmayer, Your Excellencies Auxiliary Bishops Shlesinger and Konzen, Bishop Boland, Bishop Emeritus of Savannah, Members of the College of Consultors, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Church in Atlanta, and all those joining through live-streaming, television and radio:

I regret that during these extraordinary times, I cannot join you in person, particularly as a new Metropolitan Archbishop of Atlanta is installed, but as the representative of the Holy Father, I want to assure you of the spiritual closeness of the Holy Father and of his paternal affection for the Church of Atlanta. He has given you a shepherd who will watch over the flock and nourish it with the Word and Sacrament in fact and not merely virtually. He has appointed a shepherd, who, following Archbishop Wilton Gregory, is already familiar with this growing Metropolitan Church of Atlanta.

Ordinarily, when I call someone to tell them that the Holy Father has appointed them to a See, I ask, "Are you alone?" In Archbishop Hartmayer's case, I asked, "Are you sitting down?" Your Excellency, today, you will be seated in the cathedra of this Cathedral of Christ the King. Christ is a King who is not distant from His people but whose kingdom is a "kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace." (PREFACE OF CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE)

Your Excellency, you are being installed with few people physically present and with many joining from afar, not only here in Atlanta but also from your beloved Savannah, and from all over the country. A great throng of people is supporting you with prayer. While some would have wanted a larger celebration, you know that it is time to start working to build up the Church and increase the Kingdom here in Atlanta. The people are eager to have their shepherd here. This community wants to be together with its shepherd. The community needs to be together, especially for the Eucharist.

As our Holy Father said recently, "Familiarity with the Lord is always communal. Yes, it is intimate, it is personal but in community. A familiarity without community, a familiarity without Bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the sacraments is dangerous. It can become a familiarity – let us say – gnostic, a familiarity for me alone, detached from the People of God. The familiarity of the Apostles with the Lord was always communal, always communal ... The Church, the sacraments, the People of God are concrete. It is true that at this moment we must make this familiarity with the Lord in this way [through television or internet] but we need to get out of the tunnel, not stay there!" (POPE FRANCIS, HOMILY, 17 APRIL 2020)

My Brother, the Holy Father is asking you to be close to the people of Atlanta and to lead them out of the tunnel into the marvelous light of the Risen Lord. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Heavenly Queen, whom we honor during this month of May, accompany and assist you with her loving care.

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