

## **Auxiliary Bishop-elect Michael Boulette introduction by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS**

**Good morning everyone. Thank you for coming today.**

**I warmly welcome the news this morning of the appointment by Pope Francis of Monsignor Michael Boulette as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. We are extremely grateful to the Holy Father for his gift to the church in South Texas.**

**I know that Bishop-elect Boulette brings much experience and many personal gifts to his new role. I look forward to working closely with him. He will be a compassionate bishop and a loving shepherd to the priests and the people of the archdiocese.**

**The priests and the people of the Hill Country – where he has spent many years in ministry – love him. I can tell them without question, he loves you too.**

**Bishop-elect Boulette brings with him a spirituality of joy and simplicity. He is well-known in the archdiocese for leading parish missions and retreats, preaching about the love and mercy of God, and he will continue that ministry of evangelization here as an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.**

**The bishop-elect is immensely qualified for his new role. He is a man with a marvelous pastoral heart for the needs of people, and his concern for the church is shown by the many meetings and committee gatherings he attends at the archdiocesan level.**

**Our new auxiliary bishop-elect has had a wide breadth of pastoral experience as a priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He has served in parishes; has worked in seminary formation, and in latter years has been deeply involved in spiritual direction.**

**In an *ad limina* visit with the bishops of Ireland last Friday, Pope Francis led a serious reflection on “the importance of a ministry of presence, a ministry of the ear where we are listening to the joys and the hopes, the struggles and fears of our people, that we are walking with them, that we are reaching out.” I know Bishop-elect Boulette looks forward to working together with the priests, consecrated religious and all the laity of the parishes in the archdiocese.**

**I’m sure Father Mike never would have imagined that he would be a bishop. Never would he have imagined that he would spend his final years of priestly ministry in the episcopate. Never would he have imagined the varied experiences he has had in priestly ministry that prepared him for this moment.**

**God is with us! The Lord accompanies us unceasingly, gives us courage to face challenges, zeal to spread His message, strength to overcome weaknesses, vision to make ambitious plans, and compassion to reach out to the poor.**

**My dear people -- distinguished guests -- let us give thanks to the Lord, the giver of all good things. We look at the past with gratitude. Let us look to the future with hope and at the present with joy.**

**May Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, embrace our new auxiliary bishop in her mantle, as she did with her beloved San Juan Diego. May she guide him and protect him.**

**Finally, as Father Mike begins life as an auxiliary bishop of San Antonio, I ask all the faithful to pray for him, and that the Lord may grant him peace, and please pray for me, your archbishop, as well.**