

Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette ordained as auxiliary bishop of San Antonio

At a solemn Mass of Installation and reception celebrated at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in San Antonio on March 20, the feast of St. Joseph, Auxiliary Bishop Michael Boulette was ordained as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the pope's delegate to the United States, read an Apostolic Letter, or Papal Bull, which confirmed the appointment of 66-year-old Bishop Boulette.

The new auxiliary bishop was presented several symbols of his pastoral ministry. His pectoral cross belonged to the recently deceased Archbishop Patricio Flores. Archbishop Flores attended Bishop Boulette's diaconal and priestly ordinations while he served as an auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Francis Furey. Bishop Boulette's episcopal ring, now worn on his right hand, has always represented his vocational commitments. He purchased this ring from James Avery Jewelry Company in 1968 for \$8. The bishop was also presented with two miters with embroidery crafted by the Cloistered Passionist Sisters of Mexico. They are gifts from present and former colleagues and parochial vicars. The crozier, or shepherd's staff, presented to Bishop Boulette was hand-crafted by colleague and friend David Dominguez with the assistance of David's son Luke. They used Texas Hill Country pecan wood from a tree that perished during the recent drought. David inlaid a cross in the wood and filled in the flows using limestone from the property of St. Peter upon the Water: A Center for Spiritual Direction and Formation in Ingram, of which Bishop Boulette is the founding director.

Bishop Boulette's 96-year-old mother, Pat Boulette, was in attendance, along with family members. Co-consecrators at the liturgy included Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda of the Archdiocese of Detroit – and a San Antonio native – as well as Bishop Emeritus Charles Grahmann of the Diocese of Dallas. Chamberlains to Bishop Boulette were Msgr. Lawrence J. Stuebben and Father David Garcia.

More than 20 archbishops and bishops attended the ceremony. In addition to the hierarchy present, the Mass was concelebrated by the priests of the archdiocese and visiting priests.

Music for the solemn liturgical celebration was under the direction of Rick McLaughlin, who is also director of music for San Antonio's San Fernando Cathedral, and featured the archdiocesan choir and the the Notre Dame Church choir from Kerrville. Gift bearers at the Mass included Mike and Carol Stehling; Wyatt and Jenna Wentrcek and children; Alton Petsch and Dwayne Mosser; as well as Pat Boulette, Lisa Calderon, and Coralia Virgil.

A reception was held in the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Hall following the liturgy.