**Statement of Gratitude**

**Bishop-elect Bonnici**

I am grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis and Cardinal Dolan for their confidence in me, as I embrace a new chapter in my service to God’s people. Being blessed with loving parents allowed my sister and I to experience the gift of God’s love in many beautiful ways. I am always thankful to my mother, a Lutheran, for happily accepting the responsibility to join my dad in raising her children in the Catholic faith. The journey to the priesthood began with a question put to me by my religion education teacher. Sister Laura Moore, a Mission Helper of the Sacred Heart, steered me to the Lord and his call. She, along with many wonderful priests, religious, family and friends inspired me to persevere on the path leading to ordination. I thank God for them all.

I was fortunate to have a number of wonderful assignments during my years of priesthood. Despite enjoying work at the Family Life and Respect Life Office as well as teaching at the seminary for many years, my greatest joy has been serving God’s Holy people as a parish priest. My pastorates have been inspirational experiences with loving people, priests, deacons and lay staff.

I am humbled and honored to have been asked to serve the Church of the Archdiocese of New York as an Auxillary Bishop to Cardinal Dolan. Through the intercession of Our Lady and the Saints, I pray that I will continue to serve God’s people and His Church with a compassionate and listening heart.

Bishop-elect John S. Bonnici

January 25, 2022