**Statement of Gratitude**

**Bishop-elect Espaillat**

First and foremost, I am indebted to Almighty God for the call to share in the Holy Priesthood of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. I am humbled and grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and my Archbishop, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, for their confidence and trust. I praise God for my parents and sister, who have always been my support. They were the ones who taught me that “church” begins at home. I would also like to thank God for the holy priests and religious who have influenced my vocation and have been instrumental in my formation, especially my spiritual directors, mentors, teachers, confessors and classmates (I am blessed to have the best brothers in the world). Finally, I cannot forget the people whom God has blessed me to serve and walk with, the churches and communities I have been a part of, and the amazing young people I have had the privilege of accompanying on this journey of life. It is you, my young people, who encourage and motivate me to do my best to continue serving God’s Holy Church. Please pray for me as I will pray for you!

Bishop-elect Joseph Espaillat

January 25, 2022