



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In this season and time of the Risen Lord, we in the Province of San Antonio and the Province of Galveston-Houston have received some very significant news, but it is an occasion of both joy and farewell — the appointment of Archbishop Gomez as coadjutor to Cardinal Mahony in Los Angeles.

Years ago, as a student priest in Canon Law in Rome, I learned about the duties and responsibilities of a Metropolitan Archbishop in canons 435-437. These canons deal with the care that the Archbishop has to have for his suffragan bishops and dioceses. All of us in the Province of San Antonio — bishops, priests, and diocesan staff — have experienced Archbishop Gomez's care and ministry as Archbishop in these past five years.

I have been blessed to experience his fraternal support and friendship in a personal way. He has been a wonderful friend and mentor in these past five years. You may remember that he was the principal co-consecrator at my ordination along with Archbishop Burke and now Archbishop Lucas.

As mentor and friend, he has been a role model for me in these five years. His tireless ministry as a shepherd, reflecting the Good Shepherd, has been an inspiration to me in his promotion of priestly vocations, his commitment to the unborn, care of Hispanics and all immigrants, and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. I have sought to reflect and incorporate these into my life and ministry.

Upon the announcement of his appointment as coadjutor archbishop, I offer my own personal gratitude, fraternal support, and prayers and trust of our local Church of Fort Worth. We thank him for his ministry in San Antonio and the Church in the United States and beyond. As we ask the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for this new time in his life, we say "Vaya con Dios" in your new life and episcopal ministry in Los Angeles and "el Señor bendiga usted" for his priestly and episcopal ministry in Texas.

+ Kevin W. Vann
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THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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