



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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DATE: January 31, 2019

RE: Announcement of Bishop-Designate Robert Brennan's Appointment to the Diocese of Columbus

FROM: Most Reverend William Murphy, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Rockville Centre

From the day Pope Saint John Paul sent me to this Diocese, Monsignor, now Bishop, Brennan has been at my right side as secretary, Vicar General, Auxiliary Bishop, counselor and friend. My respect for him and my confidence in him is boundless. Always humble, always attentive, he is a model priest and a bishop who comes to one and all "as one who serves." He is a parish priest whose heart is always with his parishioners, a chaplain who loves to celebrate Mass for young people and, equally, for the incarcerated in our jails, a secretary to three bishops and a Vicar General for two but whose office is always committed to advancing the Kingdom of God. As Latinos came to Long Island, he quietly and effectively learned Spanish so that he could serve them. As a product of our Catholic schools and Saint John's University he has become a leader in support of Catholic education. As a wise counselor and a man of wisdom, he has been at the center of all the major developments that have helped our Diocese grow these past two decades and more.

The People of God in the Diocese of Columbus will be blessed to have his pastoral spirit of prayer, care and commitment in the years to come. His family will miss him but they know how much the Church needs him. Bishop Barres and I both know what a loss he is for our Diocese but we also know that the bishop is sent, sent to serve God's Holy Church wherever the Spirit and the sound judgment of our Holy Father might determine. He goes with our gratitude and blessings. He goes with our love and affection. May the Lord guide him always in green pastures and may Mary, His Mother, stand beside her Son as he serves the Church of Columbus Ohio.