

Papal Letters of Appointment

Paul, Bishop and Servant of the Servants of God, to Our beloved Son, John E. McCafferty, of the diocese of Rochester in America, as present pastor of the Church of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bishop-elect of the titular see of Tanudaia, and designated auxiliary to the revered Bishop of Rochester in America, greetings and Our apostolic blessing.

Our venerable Brother, Fulton J. Sheen, a man of wide renown and revered Bishop of Rochester in America, solicitous as he is for the eternal welfare of his flock, has sent to Us a request that We grant to him a helper to assist him in administering the affairs that weigh heavily upon him, and to share with him the cares and labors of feeding his flock. We, like Abraham, have been appointed the "Father of a host of nations"; and We have always considered it Our solemn and sacred duty to provide suitable pastors for episcopal sees. After due deliberation, therefore, and with the advice of Our venerable Brothers, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church attached to the Sacred Congregation for Bishops, We hereby elect and appoint you to the office of auxiliary to the esteemed bishop named above. At the same time We create you Titular Bishop of Tanudaia, so that you may be clothed with a dignity befitting your high office.

Adapting Ourselves to your convenience, We grant you the faculty to

be duly consecrated, even outside the city of Rome, by any Catholic bishop, assisted by two other bishops, all of them united by the bond of faith with the see of Blessed Peter. This may not be done, however, until you have made a profession of faith and taken the oath of fidelity to Us and to this Church of Rome. We likewise declare that you may retain the parish over which you have heretofore been pastor, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

For the rest, beloved Son, as you enter upon an office that will make no small demands upon you, We recommend you to God's good will and favor. Relying upon and strengthened by this, may you discharge your duties religiously, and may you have a calm passage on your journey towards the shores of eternity.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the fifth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight, the fifth of Our pontificate.

Paul, Bishop and Servant of the Servants of God, to Our beloved Son, Dennis W. Hickey, Vicar General of the Diocese of Rochester in America, and pastor of the Church of St. Theodore, Martyr, now Bishop-elect of Rusuccuru and Auxiliary to the Bishop of Rochester in America, greetings and Our apostolic blessing.

Today the cares and labors of episcopal government are increasingly great, especially in those dioceses that are outstanding, to the credit of the Catholic cause, by reason of their large population and the number of their religious institutions. It thus comes about that a bishop often has need of an associate bishop, with whose help he may more efficiently and wisely provide for the people committed to his care. This favor we desire to grant to the most worthy Bishop of Rochester in America, whose extensive diocese and its large population make necessary a suitable assistant. Therefore, after consultation with Our venerable Brothers, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church attached to the Sacred Congregation for Bishops, and believing that you, beloved Son, are well equipped to assume that office — since your proven virtue and wide pastoral experience highly recommend you — We now by Our supreme authority choose and designate you auxiliary to Our venerable Brother, the Bishop of Rochester in America. At the same time We appoint you Bishop of the Titular See of Rusuccuru, now vacant. You will therefore enjoy all the rights and be bound by all the duties that pertain to auxiliary bishops throughout the world.

And for your greater convenience, We grant you permission to be consecrated bishop outside of Rome by any bishop of your choice, who will be assisted by two other bishops — all united in faith and charity with the See of Rome. But before this takes place, you will make your profession of Catholic faith according to the prescribed formula in the presence of any bishop in union with this Chair of Peter, and also take the oath of loyalty to Us and to the Roman Pontiffs. As a testimonial of Our favor, We grant you the right to retain the parish church of St. Theodore, Martyr, of which you have thus far been pastor.

As a pastor, beloved Son, you are already experienced in the care of souls. Now that you are a bishop, sharpen your effort, your zeal, your virtue, so as to give prompt assistance to the distinguished prelate to whom you are being sent, and safe guidance to his people. This We strongly urge; and on your behalf We offer Our affectionate prayers to the God of all mercy.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the fifth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-eight, the fifth of Our pontificate.

What is a Titular Bishop?

By Luciano Castmirri

VATICAN CITY—(NC)—Through its more than 1,000 titular archbishops and bishops, the Church keeps alive the memory of ancient towns and storied cities which have now fallen from importance or disappeared completely.

Whenever the Church appoints a bishop who cannot be given a residential diocese, he is appointed to a see which was residential in the past but is no longer so.

A titular diocese is assigned by the Holy See, for example, to papal nuncios, apostolic delegates, apostolic vicars, auxiliary or co-adjutor bishops, or residential bishops who retire because of old age or illness.

The general practice is that such appointments are made when a bishop does not have full jurisdiction over the territory in which he is to work.

Bishop Dennis Hickey is the titular Bishop of Rusuccuru and Bishop John McCafferty is titular Bishop of Tanudaia. Both ancient dioceses were in northern Africa but have not had active status in many centuries.

The custom is of very ancient origin.

There were already records of titular bishops at the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451.

In records of the Fourth Century, there is evidence of several archbishops and bishops who did not exercise their office in the see to which they were named. According to the Council of Nicea of 325, heretical bishops could retain the title and honor after their conversion to Catholicism, but not the office of bishop.

There was also a large number of bishops expelled by the Saracens from the East, Africa and Spain in the Seventh and Eighth Centuries, and by the Turks after they took the Holy Land in 1267. They were received by Western bishops and given the duties of auxiliaries. On their deaths, others were consecrated as their successors to dioceses already in the hands of the invaders.

The practice was regulated by the Council of Vienna in 1311 and by the Council of Trent (1545-63), and has been retained by the Holy See. But whereas titular bishops were once called "bishops in the regions of the infidels," Pope Leo XIII changed this to simply "titular bishops."

These bishops have no jurisdiction over the "church" or diocese to which their name is ascribed, but enjoy with

few exceptions the privileges and honors of residential bishops.

The titular see assigned to a new bishop is chosen by the Consistorial Congregation from among a list of 1,770. Even if the appointment is made by another congregation, as for instance the Congregation for Oriental Churches or the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in missionary territories, or the Section for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Papal Secretariat of State, the attribution of the titular see is always made by the Consistorial Congregation.

At times an effort is made to satisfy the desires of a new bishop who because of sentiment requests a certain see. Archbishop Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, for instance, who later became Pope John XXIII, was transferred in 1934 from the Apostolic Delegation in Bulgaria to that in Turkey; he asked and obtained the Titular See of Mesembria, the modern Missivri in Bulgaria, in exchange for that of Areopoli in Palestine. His request was made, he said, in order to take with him a memory of Bulgaria to which he was deeply attached.

The *Annuario Pontificio*, yearbook of the Vatican, lists 1,770 titular sees. Of these 79 are metropolitan, 136 archbishops and 1,555 bishops. Only 1,124 are assigned — to 66 metropolitans, 119 archbishops and 939 bishops.

Owing to the current practice of assigning Eastern sees to Eastern Rite bishops it may happen that the supply of titular sees available to Western prelates will be exhausted with an increase in titular prelates prompted by increased Church needs. In such a case, however, there is nothing to prevent dioceses which have been suppressed or may be suppressed in the future from becoming titular sees.

It is estimated, for instance, that because of the reorganization of Italian church administration currently underway, nearly 200 Italian dioceses will disappear. They would then be eligible as assignments for titular bishops.

Catholic College Growth

The National Catholic Education Association Research Office reports that for every four students in United States Catholic colleges and schools ten years ago there are five today. This represents an increase of 1,200,000 students.

But for every four teachers in the classrooms ten years ago there are six today which represents an increase of 66,000.

Best Wishes
And
Long Life
in the
Service of Souls



THE MEN AND REDEMPTRIST PRIESTS
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NOTRE DAME
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God Bless
and Keep
You For Many
Years To Come

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA CHURCH
Hornell, New York

"AD MULTOS ANNOS"

CONGRATULATIONS
Thankfulness By The Entire Diocese
Of Rochester Is Due To These
Appointees. Therefore Our Wishes
For Their Success Is Most Sincere

Joseph Entress
BUILDER



OUR ENTIRE STAFF JOINS
IN CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .
BISHOP DENNIS W. HICKEY
AND
BISHOP JOHN E. McCAFFERTY
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR
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