

**Homily for the Installation of Reverend Michael Trummer as Pastor of  
Saint John the Baptist Parish, Arcola; Sacred Heart Parish, Villa Grove; and  
Forty Martyrs Parish, Tuscola,  
at Forty Martyrs Church, Tuscola, Illinois  
Mass for Friday of the 20<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, Year 2,  
with Prayers from the Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart | August 23, 2024, A.D.**

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ: It is good for us to be here today for this Mass and Rite of Installation of Father Michael Trummer as Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Arcola, Sacred Heart Parish in Villa Grove, and Forty Martyrs Parish in Tuscola.

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo: Es bueno para nosotros estar aquí hoy para esta Misa y Rito de Instalación del Padre Michael Trummer como Párroco de la Parroquia de San Juan Bautista en Arcola, de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Villa Grove, y de la Parroquia de los Cuarenta Mártires en Tuscola.

The Rite of Installation that we celebrate today is not a pre-requisite for a priest to begin functioning as the pastor of a parish, but every year when new pastors are appointed around our diocese, I or my delegate do this rite with them because it reminds all of us of an essential part of being a disciple: Disciples do not choose their own path, they follow Christ where He leads

them. For example, I did not just show up here in the Diocese of Springfield one day and claim the title of bishop for myself. No, I was sent, I was commissioned, by then Pope Benedict XVI, himself having been given his authority as Pope after Christ gave it to St. Peter when He founded the Church: “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

In a similar way, a priest is *sent* and *entrusted* with the pastoral responsibilities of a parish by his bishop, and it is during the rite of installation that we celebrate here this evening that this handing over of the “keys of the kingdom” (albeit only a small part of Christ’s Kingdom) takes place.

At the same time, Jesus’ gift of responsibility and authority over His Church as entrusted to Peter, and my giving a part of that to your new pastor today, is not something that happens only to the Pope, or to priests. *Every one of us* has been entrusted with a small part of Jesus’ Kingdom. For some of you, that is upholding Christ’s reign in your family, as you work, or among the people you are friends with. For all of us, Christ has given us the responsibility, and dignity, of caring for and protecting His Kingdom *in our own hearts*.

One of the ways that we do this happens every Sunday when we profess our faith by praying the Creed. For Saint Peter Himself, it was only after his

profession of faith in Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the Living God” that he was made leader of the Church. Today, in a special way, all of us, with your new pastor, will recite the Creed, professing individually and together our common faith in Christ. By that profession, I officially ask your pastor to take on the responsibilities of these parishes with the heart of Christ. But every time we profess the Creed, every time we *pray* those words that billions of Christians have prayed down through the centuries, we each renew our own commitment to Jesus! Does He reign over our hearts? Is He the Lord of our *time*? Of our *bank accounts*? Of those He has entrusted to our care. I have heard this question asked rather provocatively: if I were taken before a court and charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict me? If Jesus is truly “Christ” and “Son of the Living God,” as we confess, then He *must be the only king of our lives*, and that should be evident in the way we live.

Of course, our prayer together this evening is not just a recommitment to the Lord, it is also to give thanksgiving and worship to God, who daily provides for us. Before officially installing your new Pastor, we offer thanks and gratitude to God for Father Varghese Anthony Puthussery, S.A.C., and his priestly care of these parishes during this past year. We wish him well in his

new assignment as Pastor Holy Family Parish in Athens and Saint Peter Parish in Petersburg, Illinois.

I also want to thank Father Michael Trummer for his own fidelity to the Lord, and obedience to me, in taking on this new assignment as your Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Arcola, Sacred Heart Parish in Villa Grove, and Forty Martyrs Parish in Tuscola.

Michael Trummer was born in Mattoon, Illinois, and then raised not too far from there in Neoga. He has two older brothers, Christopher, who is also a priest, and Jonny. He also has a twin sister, Katrina. Going to Mass weekly was something their family always did. He went to school in Neoga and attended weekly religious education class from first grade until high school graduation. He attended Lake Land Community College in Mattoon and Eastern Illinois University Charleston. After learning more about the Catholic faith, he began to discern God's call to be a priest. He transferred to Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary with classes at Marian University in Indianapolis, and then completed his theological studies and formation for the priesthood at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

It was a great joy for me to ordain Father Michael Trummer in 2020 along with seven other priests, our largest ordination class since 1964! Since his

priestly ordination, Father Trummer has served as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and St. Thomas the Apostle in Decatur, Chaplain at St. Teresa High School in Decatur, and Associate Chaplain at Millikin University, in Decatur. Since 2022, he has served as Parochial Vicar at St. Boniface Parish in Edwardsville and Associate Chaplain at Father McGivney Catholic High School in Glen Carbon.

Michael Trummer nació en Mattoon, Illinois, y luego se crió no muy lejos de allí en Neoga. Tiene dos hermanos mayores, Christopher, que también es sacerdote, y Jonny. También tiene una hermana gemela, Katrina. Ir a cada misa semana era algo que su familia siempre hacía. Fue a la escuela en Neoga y asistió a clases semanales de educación religiosa desde el primer grado hasta la graduación de la escuela secundaria. Asistió al Lake Land Community College en Mattoon y a la Universidad del Este de Illinois en Charleston. Después de aprender más sobre la fe católica, comenzó a discernir el llamado de Dios a ser sacerdote. Se transfirió al Collegio Seminario Obispo Simon Bruté con clases en la Universidad Mariana en Indianápolis, y luego completó sus estudios teológicos y formación para el sacerdocio en el Seminario Kenrick en St. Louis.

Fue una gran alegría para mí ordenar al Padre Michael Trummer en 2020 junto con otros siete sacerdotes, ¡nuestra clase de ordenación más grande desde 1964! Desde su ordenación sacerdotal, el Padre Trummer se ha desempeñado como Vicario Parroquial en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes y Santo Tomás Apóstol en Decatur, Capellán en la Escuela Secundaria Santa Teresa en Decatur y Capellán Asociado en la Universidad de Millikin, en Decatur. Desde 2022, se ha desempeñado como Vicario Parroquial en la Parroquia de San Bonifacio en Edwardsville y Capellán Asociado en la Escuela Secundaria Católica Padre McGivney en Glen Carbon.

Father Michael Trummer will serve you now as pastor as we continue forward into this Third Millennium of Christianity, so I think it is fitting to call to mind a theme suggested by our late Holy Father, the Great Pope Saint John Paul II, in his Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, "On Entering the New Millennium," which I quote as follows (nos. 30-31): "First of all, I have no hesitation in saying that *all pastoral initiatives must be set in relation to holiness.*" Holiness consists of following Jesus as His disciples, as people who listen and learn from Him, and who put Him first in our lives. In a real relationship with Christ, we discover that everything we have was first a gift from our Heavenly Father.

Saint Peter wrote of this realization and consequent conversion in these words: “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10). This is why *stewardship* naturally flows from the authentic *disciple*. We cannot help but make return to the Lord of all the good things He has done for us.

In the Fall of 2015, I published my second pastoral letter, entitled, *Ars Crescendi in Dei Gratia*, Latin for “The Art of Growing in God’s Grace.” In it, I wrote, “The art of growing in God’s grace is the key to growth in the Church. Building a culture of growth in the Church starts with inviting people to experience the love of Jesus Christ.” All of us are not just called to receive God’s love for ourselves, but to become instruments of that love in those around us! This is how the Church will grow. That is how *this* Church will grow.

En el otoño de 2015, publiqué mi segunda carta pastoral, titulada, *Ars Crescendi in Dei Gratia*, que en latín significa “El arte de crecer en la gracia de Dios”. En él, escribí: “El arte de crecer en la gracia de Dios es la clave para el crecimiento en la Iglesia. La construcción de una cultura de crecimiento en la Iglesia comienza con invitar a las personas a experimentar el amor de Jesucristo”.

In 2017 we concluded our Fourth Diocesan Synod in which the clergy, consecrated religious, and delegates from all 129 parishes in this Diocese voted overwhelmingly to adopt a dozen declarations on how we should live out our identity as disciples and stewards in this diocese for the coming years. The first of these declarations was a bold response to God's call: "The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints. Accordingly, the community of Catholic faithful in this diocese is committed to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Christ Our Savior and as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition."

Four pillars, essential areas for our faithful discipleship and stewardship, came from those synodal discussions: **hospitality, prayer, formation, and service**. In other words, we are the kind of Catholic Christians who will **invite** people proactively to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass; we will **provide** well-prepared celebrations of the sacraments and other occasions for **prayer** as signs of hope and paths of grace to heaven; we will **study** the Bible and **learn** more about Jesus and our Catholic faith; and we will **serve** each other, especially those in need, by practicing charity and justice.

En 2017 concluimos nuestro Cuarto Sínodo Diocesano en el que el clero, los religiosos consagrados y los delegados de las 129 parroquias de esta diócesis votaron claramente para adoptar una docena de declaraciones sobre cómo debemos vivir nuestra identidad como discípulos y administradores en esta diócesis para los próximos años. La primera de estas declaraciones fue una respuesta audaz al llamado de Dios: “La misión de la Diócesis Católica Romana de Springfield en Illinois es construir una comunidad ferviente de discípulos misioneros intencionales y dedicados del Señor Resucitado y administradores firmes de la creación de Dios que buscan convertirse en santos. En consecuencia, la comunidad de fieles católicos en esta diócesis está comprometida con el estilo de vida de discipulado y administrador tal como lo ordenó Cristo Nuestro Salvador y como lo revelan las Sagradas Escrituras y la Tradición”.

Cuatro pilares, áreas esenciales para nosotros como discípulos, surgieron de esas discusiones sinodales: **hospitalidad, oración, formación y servicio**. En otras palabras, somos el tipo de cristianos católicos que invitarán a las personas de manera proactiva a unirse a nosotros en la oración, especialmente en la misa dominical; ofreceremos celebraciones bien preparadas de los sacramentos y otras ocasiones para **la oración** como signos de esperanza y

caminos de gracia hacia el cielo; estudiaremos la Biblia y **aprenderemos** más sobre Jesús y nuestra fe católica; y serviremos los unos a los otros, especialmente los necesitados, practicando la caridad y la justicia.

If we look briefly at our readings today, our first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (Ez 37:1-14) speaks of how “the hand of the Lord” came upon Ezekiel and led him out “in the Spirit of the Lord.” So, too we believe that the hand of the Lord has come upon Father Michael Trummer and led him through the Holy Spirit to his vocation as a priest and to this specific assignment to be your Pastor. In our passage today from the Gospel of Saint Matthew (Mt 22:34-40), Our Lord speaks of the two great commandments: To love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and mind, and soul, and your neighbor as yourself. Surely the ministry of a pastor cannot go wrong if he follows those two great commandments.

The prayers for this Mass are from the votive Mass of the Sacred Heart. Just as Christ poured out His love for us from His heart when He died on the cross for our sins, a priest is called to pour out his love from his heart in his ministry to the People of God.

Just last month, our National Eucharistic Congress took place in Indianapolis, where 60,000 Catholics gathered for this moving and memorable

event, and countless more joined us via livestream. The National Eucharistic Revival, of which the Congress was a major part, now continues with a special Year of Mission, which calls for Catholics to share their rekindled love of the Eucharist with other people. This is an essential aspect of our being disciples of Jesus Christ and stewards of God's gifts of creation.

Now, your parishes have already begun following Christ as disciples and stewards, so when Our Lord comes to us again today in this Eucharist, each of us is invited into an even more complete following after Him. Jesus asks your new pastor for trust, for courage, and for prayer in continuing God's mission in these parishes. But your pastor cannot do this alone; he needs the commitment and cooperation of all of you. Today it is my joy to join you all in our worship of God and receive the gift of His Son in this Eucharist. I pray that all of you will work with Father Michael Trummer in seeking to be intentional disciples of the Lord and generous stewards of the gifts entrusted to us for the growth of the Church as we journey together toward our inheritance in the glory of Heaven. Therefore, dear parishioners of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Arcola, Sacred Heart Parish in Villa Grove, and Forty Martyrs Parish in Tuscola, I urge you to strive for holiness, to work and pray with your new

pastor. Support him, help him, pray for him, and most of all, love him as he loves you and as Christ calls us to love each other.

May God give us this grace. Amen.