

Announcing the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine

Welcome Remarks by Bishop Victor Galeone

It gives me great pleasure to welcome my successor, Bishop Felipe Estévez, the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine. For many months now – without knowing who he was – I have been praying that my successor would be a man of solid integrity with a deep love for the Lord and his Church. My prayers have been answered.

Unlike Bishop Snyder who did not know me before I was named bishop ten years ago, I have had the advantage of knowing Bishop Estévez since the day I became a bishop. During the first three years of my tenure, we worked together on the Pastoral and Formation Committee of our Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach. And since he became a bishop in 2004, we've been closely associated at our provincial and regional bishops' meetings.

Bishop Estévez possesses a number of excellent qualities of an effective leader. First of all, he is a man of vision. Additionally, he's a good listener as well as a healer, capable of uniting parties that are on opposite ends of a divisive matter.

Furthermore, his calm demeanor and consummate charity nevertheless bespeak a man of great kindness who is rock solid in his personal faith in Our Lord, his strong faith in the Church, and his unflinching loyalty to the Holy Father.

Finally, Bishop Estévez has the knack of discerning the obvious, which at times can elude even the experts. I experienced this trait of his at several of the meetings of the Florida bishops as well as at the National Meeting of the Bishops in Baltimore last November.

Bishop Estévez, welcome to the Diocese of St. Augustine!