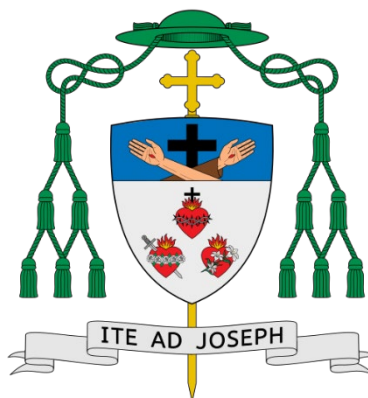




A Grace-Filled Sunday with Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero

Over the past several months, our new Bishop of Venice, **Most Reverend Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap** has visited many parishes celebrating Sunday mass. Our Brother Knights have been a steadfast presence on these Sundays welcoming His Excellency to our diocese. This morning's mass at **Our Lady of Lourdes** was a truly blessed experience filled with joy, reverence, and a deep sense of unity for all who gathered.



A Shepherd Formed by Mission and Heritage

At the beginning of his homily, Bishop Emilio shared his background. He spoke about his priestly ministry, which began under the Capuchin Franciscan charism rooted in humility, simplicity, and service to the poor. His life is marked by missionary courage, cultural richness, and unwavering fidelity to Christ. Of Cuban American descent, Bishop Emilio carries within him a heritage of resilience, faith, and family devotion.

His Excellency has served in diverse and challenging pastoral assignments. In **Papua New Guinea** he ministered to the remote communities on the islands. He served in **Cuba** offering hope and spiritual strength amid social and economic hardship. At **The Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, D.C.** Bishop Emilio was the spiritual father to immigrant families and multicultural communities.

Bishop Emilio's words resonated with authenticity and warmth, reminding us that every vocation is a story written by God's grace.

His appointment to the Diocese of Venice reflects the Holy Father's trust in his missionary heart, pastoral wisdom, and ability to unite people across cultures and backgrounds.



Reflection on the Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16a

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Bishop Emilio transitioned to today's Gospel where Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of God is not measured by human standards of merit or wages. His Excellency beautifully emphasized that this parable is not about money, but about the boundless generosity of God's love. He explained that God's grace is not earned rather it is given to us. God's mercy is not rationed. It is abundant. God's embrace is not selective. It is universal.

Bishop Emilio reminded us that this is the heart of the Gospel: *God delights in giving Himself fully to each of us, without comparison, without condition, and without limit.* Whether one comes early or late, whether one's journey has been straight or winding, the Lord welcomes all His children equally.



Blessing of Our Catechists

A special moment of today's celebration was the bishop's blessing of the Faith Formation Catechists, those dedicated servants who nurture the seeds of faith in our children. Under the leadership of **Faith Formation Director Elisa Dacey**, the ministry continues to flourish with devotion, creativity, and love.

Elisa offered a heartfelt introduction of the catechists each one a witness to Christ's call to "teach all nations." Her words honored their commitment, their patience, and their joyful service. The Bishop's blessing affirmed the vital role they play in forming young hearts for Christ and strengthening the future of our parish.







A Parish United in Joy

As mass concluded, there was a long line of parishioners eager to greet Bishop Emilio, shake his hand, share a moment, or simply offer a word of gratitude. It was touching to see families, elders, children, longtime parishioners, and newcomers alike, all united in the joy of meeting their shepherd.

Many walked away with smiles, blessings, and a renewed sense of connection to our diocese. It was, in every sense, a wonderful day of grace, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.





A Blessing for All Who Attended

May today's celebration strengthen our faith, deepen our unity, and inspire us to live with the same generosity that Christ teaches in the vineyard parable. May Bishop Emilio's visits continue to bear fruit in our parish communities, and may God bless all who serve, teach, and worship in our Catholic faith. .





