

**Bishop Barres remarks at July 30, 2009 Ordination/Installation Mass  
(after closing prayer)**

**I offer thanks to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for all they have done in my life, and most especially for granting me the grace of the priesthood.**

**I thank Pope Benedict XVI for asking me to serve the Church as a bishop and to his representative in the United States Archbishop Pietro Sambi. I thank Cardinal Rigali for consecrating me and for his prayers and kind encouragement these past months.**

**I am grateful to the bishops of Wilmington, Bishop Francis Malooly, Bishop Michael Saltarelli and Bishop Robert Mulvee who have modeled for me how a bishop's authority and teaching ministry grow and deepen when the bishop, like Christ, washes the feet of the faithful and all humanity.**

**I also thank Bishop Edward Cullen for his inspirational years of Episcopal service and dedication both here in the Diocese of Allentown as well as in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I am fortunate to be able to rely on Bishop Cullen for advice, counsel and support in the years ahead.**

**I thank the assembled bishops for being present today to participate in my consecration and for the prayers, encouragement and kind wishes they have offered me.**

**I am grateful to the priests of the Diocese of Wilmington, whose dedication to prayer and pastoral charity has always inspired me and to the lay people I have served who have helped to form in me the heart of a parish priest.**

**I thank my parents Oliver and Marjorie Barres, convert protestant ministers who met each other at the Yale Divinity School and entered the church in 1955.**

**My father worked for the propagation of the faith in New York City for Archbishop Fulton sheen and published *One Shepherd, One Flock*, the story of my parents' conversion, and *World Mission Windows*, a collection of my father's articles on the missionary nature of the church. My parents will always set the standard for me in terms of heroic sacrifice and courage for Christ and the Church.**

**The Episcopal motto I have chosen – “holiness and mission” – expresses my hope for the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown and my own Episcopal ministry.**

**It is also a tribute to the missionary zeal of Pope Benedict XVI, Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Fulton Sheen who baptized me, as well as dear family friends Bishop William McNaughton (Maryknoll Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Inchon, Korea) and Catholic publisher Frank Sheed, and most especially my parents. It is also a**

tribute to the holiness of my spiritual director for many years and father in the priesthood Fr. James J. Halligan, who died on February 21, 2006.

I thank my four sisters, Margaret, Mary, Catherine, and Clare and my brother Bill, their spouses and my seven nephews and four nieces. I remember especially my nephew and godson John Oliver Cotter, a 2006 Lehigh University Engineering School graduate. John died on May 2, 2008 and is especially remembered at this Ordination Mass.

I am happy to greet the Church of the Diocese of Allentown as a newly ordained bishop for the first time. I have heard of the holiness, vitality and missionary spirit of the priests, deacons, religious women and men, and the laity of the diocese. I am looking forward to serving you and learning with and from you.

There are so many signs of hope on the horizon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Together, we in the Diocese of Allentown, will read the signs of the times so that we can discern the will of the Holy Spirit with the guidance of Peter.

Last October, a synod was held in Rome on “The Word of God in the Church”. Pope Benedict encouraged every Catholic around the world to study and pray the sacred scriptures daily. He told us that if each of us commits deeply to the word of God, there will be a new springtime of evangelization.

Now is the time for that springtime. Now is the time for evangelization – using every means of modern technology at our disposal to spread the gospel. And at the heart of evangelization is catechesis. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us: “periods of renewal in the Church are always periods of intense catechesis.”

In pursuing that evangelization and catechesis we will also honor the memory of Avery Cardinal Dulles, who died last December. Cardinal Dulles, who was one of the greatest theologians ever produced by the Church in America, was known for his “evangelizing theology.”

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, we celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. We Catholic Americans and all Americans learn so much from President Lincoln. He was approachable and loved to understand the daily concerns and trials of the average American. And he was magnanimous and generous in his forgiveness and pursuit of the common good.

In his second inaugural address, he speaks about “binding up the nation’s wounds.” We Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown recommit ourselves to “binding up the wounds of the Church and the world” – the wounds of the poor and those suffering from the financial crisis, the stranger, the alienated and inactive Catholic, the unborn and the elderly, the victims of clergy sexual abuse and all forms of abuse, and those on death row.

**We recommit ourselves to building a culture of life in our nation—a culture in which the life of every human being is precious from conception until natural death and which understands that the right to life cannot be denied, ignored or compromised away because it is the foundation for all other rights.**

**Today all of us open ourselves as a Church to the healing power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

**We treasure and appreciate the history and ethnic faith of our ancestors. We would not be here were it not for their sacrifices and their faith. We are stewards of reverence for those sacrifices and that faith. We will creatively discern together proper ways to honor it and remember it in our parishes.**

**We at the same time face together with prayer, courage, and foresight the realities that all institutions face with an economy in crisis and changing demographics. We remember too that we are not alone in facing these challenges. The dynamic in Church history in every time and place is that just when it seems as if some dimension of church life may be breaking down, another dimension and apostolic opportunity breaks through.**

**We look forward to the Feast of the Holy Cure of Ars, St. John Vianney, on August 4<sup>th</sup> in the Year of the Priest which began on June 19. St. John Vianney is known for many virtues, but perhaps most of all for his promotion of eucharistic devotion and the sacrament of reconciliation.**

**The Cure would sit for hours every day hearing confessions from people who came from all over France. As Pope Benedict XVI notes in his June 16<sup>th</sup> letter on the Year of the Priest, “in France at the time of the Cure of Ars, confession was no more easy or frequent than in our own day.” Yet the Holy Father stresses that “priests ought never to be resigned to empty confessionals or the apparent indifference of the faithful to the sacrament.” The Diocese of Allentown is not, and will not be, resigned to empty confessionals.**

**To help continue the gift of reconciliation and forgiveness in the Diocese of Allentown, I will join with my fellow priests in hearing confessions here at the Cathedral and in other Churches and schools around the Diocese. We remember today that the road to Ars symbolized by the sacrament of penance is also the road to Damascus and life-changing conversion.**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> century is a time for holiness and heroism in the priesthood. The consecration and mission of the priest is absolutely crucial and fundamental to a vibrant Eucharistic church and a vibrant laity.**

**It is a new time for each one of us as we “rekindle our eucharistic amazement” by remembering that “every mass is celebrated on the altar of the world” to take**

personal responsibility to promote Catholic marriage, family life and the gospel of life, and vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

To that end, I will ask all young—and many not so young—Catholics to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern whether they have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Some will find--perhaps to their own amazement--that they are called to, and are capable of, holiness and heroism as priests or religious.

Many of you know by now that I have deep roots in the Diocese of Allentown, especially in Bethlehem and I have grown up with wonderful family stories that revolve around Bethlehem.

Today I think of my great grandfathers. One great grandfather Jacob Barres came from Mengerschied in what was then the Prussian Rhineland in 1852 and was a pattern-maker at the Bethlehem iron works.

The other great grandfather Thomas Ritter was elected police sergeant for the old borough of Bethlehem in 1888 and then beginning in March 1900 he served for 38 years as a night watchman for the “Bethlehem Businessmen’s Protective Union.”

He is quoted as saying in the newspaper article in my family file: “I have never taken any vacation and am just as happy as ever. I have been walking (as a night watchman) on an average of 14 miles every night for 38 years.”

My hope is that I may be as vigilant a shepherd and night-watchman for the Church of Allentown as Tom Ritter was for the businesses in Bethlehem.

Another Bethlehem-Easton connection I have is with legendary Princeton basketball coach Pete Carril who is present here today with one of his greatest players, the president of Moravian college, Chris Thomforde.

Coach grew up in a Spanish neighborhood in Bethlehem near the steel mills, was all-state at Liberty High School, starred at Lafayette in the early 50s, coached at Reading High School and then coached at Lehigh before moving on to Princeton

I played three years of JV basketball for Coach Carril and learned much about sacrifice and team play from him and the Princeton basketball experience.

Chris Thomforde tells a classic Coach Carril story.

Chris was Princeton basketball’s equivalent of Eric Liddell in the movie *Chariots of Fire* – a wholesome young man and outstanding athlete who was on his way to becoming a protestant minister.

In one game, Chris had a terrible first half. He dreaded going to the half-time room because he knew he was going to get it from Coach. He just didn’t know how.

**Coach Carril had a great sense of his players and how to motivate them. So what does he say to this aspiring minister? “Chris, how can you believe in God and play like that?”**

**Coach, Chris and I want you to know that though it has been awhile since either of us have run the Princeton back door cut, we have already begun to think about how we could use your principles of team play to build up Ecumenical and inter-religious bonds in the community. If Eddie Jordan can use them in the NBA with the 76ers, we can use them in Allentown!**

**Finally, I speak to the young Church of Allentown – in our Catholic Schools, in public schools, in our religious education programs, in our youth ministry and on college campuses in the five counties of the diocese.**

**Know the hope and dreams I have for each one of you. Know that I realize that you want to understand and know the truth and person of Jesus Christ, the truth and person who will set you free.**

**Your deep and developing Catholic faith, your heroism in embracing the truth of the gospels and Church teaching and resisting negative peer pressure, helps to rekindle the faith of the generations that go before you. Thank you for that faith. Thank you for that heroism. Keep following the light of Christ.**

**I’d like to offer some words to our Hispanic brothers and sisters:**

<p><i>My dear brothers and sisters in the Hispanic community, I had the opportunity to greet you at the press conference on may 27<sup>th</sup> and now I greet you again with a heart that wants to serve you.</i></p>	<p><b>Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas de la comunidad hispana, el 27 de mayo tuve la oportunidad de saludarles durante la conferencia de prensa, y les saludo de nuevo ahora con un corazón que ansía servirles.</b></p>
<p><i>I want you to know that I can celebrate mass for you in Spanish but I do need to improve my Spanish a lot! I will count on your patience and encouragement and you can count on prayers, affection and deep desire to serve you. For three summers, I spent two weeks in Guadalajara on retreat with some very patient Mexican priests. There I had the opportunity to pray and understand the powerful witness of the Mexican martyrs who often witnessed to the Lord as they died with the powerful words: “Viva Cristo rey y la Virgen de Guadalupe!”</i></p>	<p><b>Me alegro poder decirles que ya puedo celebrar la misa en español para ustedes, pero que todavía necesito mejorar mucho mi conocimiento del idioma. Yo contaré con su tolerancia y sus alientos, y ustedes con mis oraciones, mi afecto y un deseo profundo de servirles. Cada verano por tres años, he pasado dos semanas de retiro en guadalajara con algunos sacerdotes mexicanos muy pacientes. Allí tuve la oportunidad de rezar y de llegar a comprender el poderoso testimonio de los mártires mexicanos que muchas veces murieron</b></p>

	<b>declarando estas potentes palabras de testimonio del señor: “¡viva cristo rey y la virgen de guadalupe!”</b>
<i>For all my Hispanic sisters and brothers who are carrying the cross of sorrow and pain in any way, know that I want to be with you in your carrying of the cross.</i>	<b>Para todos mis hermanos hispanos que ahora cargaran una cruz de tristeza y dolor, sepan que quiero caminar a su lado.</b>
<i>I think of so many of you who have traveled here from other countries leaving loved ones behind. Know that your family members here with you in the United States and the family members that you miss so much are my family too and will always be in my prayers and masses.</i>	<b>Pienso también en los muchos que han viajado aquí de otros países y que han tenido que dejar atrás a sus seres queridos. Sepan que los familiares que están con ustedes aquí en estados unidos, y los de allá a quienes tanto echan de menos, también son de mi familia y que siempre los recordaré al rezar y en la misa.</b>
<i>You will find me to be an active agent of the vision laid out by Pope John Paul II in 1999 in Ecclesia in America. The Church in all of the Americas and the islands are to be united in Father, Son and Holy Spirit and through an intrepid and courageous spirit of evangelization.</i>	<b>Descubrirán ustedes que soy agente activo de la visión que describió el papa juan pablo segundo en su encíclica “ecclesia in america.” La iglesia a través de todas las américas y sus islas estará unida en el padre, el hijo y el espíritu santo por medio de un espíritu intrépido y valiente de evangelización.</b>
<i>I have visited and prayed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will give me great happiness to pray before the statue of the Virgin at Immaculate Conception Church in Allentown, which is, I understand one of the best copies of the original in the world. As St. Juan Diego was surprised as he opened his tilma and found the image of Our Lady emblazoned with beautiful roses, may you and I have the joy of constantly being surprised by God’s graces as we work together to evangelize the Diocese of Allentown and all of the Americas. God bless you!</i>	<b>He visitado la basílica de nuestra señora de guadalupe y allí también recé. Será una gran alegría para mí poder rezar ante la estatua de la virgencita que se encentra en la iglesia de la inmaculada concepción de allentown, que es, según tengo entendido, una de las mejores copias de la original en el mundo. Del mismo modo que san juan diego se sorprendió al abrir su tilma y encontrar la imagen de nuestra señora engalanada de hermosas rosas, que a nosotros también nos sorprenda gozosos la gracia constante de dios mientras trabajamos juntos para evangelizar la diócesis de allentown y por todas las américas. ¡qué dios los bendiga!</b>