



Year of Faith
— 2012 - 2013 —
Archdiocese of Boston

REMARKS OF BISHOP-ELECT ROBERT P. DEELEY, J.C.D.

Your Eminence, Cardinal Seán, my brother bishops and priests, my family, my brothers and sisters, thank you so much for being here this morning. The occasion that brings us together is a moment of great joy for me. It is still, however, somewhat overwhelming.

When the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Viganó called me last week I was thinking it was a routine call from Washington seeking information of some kind. Instead the Nuncio informed me that His Holiness, Benedict XVI, wished to appoint me an Auxiliary Bishop of Boston to assist Cardinal Seán in the work of this great Church in Boston. Archbishop Viganó wanted to know if I would accept. It seems to me that when the Holy Father makes a request a priest is going to answer “yes”. In fact, I am deeply honored that the Holy Father has given me his trust by asking me to carry out this responsibility. I am grateful as well, that, in accepting the Holy Father’s request, I have the privilege to work more closely with Cardinal Sean, the faithful shepherd of our Church in Boston. I have learned over the last 15 months of close collaboration with him in my responsibility as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia that he is an extraordinary man. Deeply a man of faith he loves this Church of ours in Boston. He has worked tirelessly and quietly to rebuild it and to move it forward. When he was ordained a priest he intended to be a missionary. Little did he know that his mission territory would not be Papua New Guinea but Boston where he would be called to proclaim the Gospel anew in what we call the “New Evangelization.” Your Eminence, thank you for accepting me in this new role as your Auxiliary.

Since that phone call on November 1st, the Feast of all the Saints, there has been much to do. One of the things I needed to determine was what my Episcopal motto would be. I have chosen a passage from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians: “*Veritatem facere in caritate*”, “Living the truth in love”. In these words of Paul I find the heart of our challenge in the Church today. In his two most recent Pastoral Letters Cardinal Seán has charged us, each of us, to be evangelizers, to preach what we believe with our lives. In such a way we invite others to come and know the joy and hope we find in the message of truth which we call Jesus Christ. In this passage of the Epistle to the Ephesians Paul calls on the people of the early Church to grow into the Body of Christ, precisely by living the truth in love. Paul speaks of the many ways in which this is done by different people with differing tasks in the Church. Some are Pastors or Bishops, some are teachers, but all are called to be holy and committed to the work of evangelization, of proclaiming the Gospel, in the community of the Church.

The first community where we learned about our faith was, for most of us, our families. That was certainly the case for me. I am so grateful that some of my brothers and their families are with me here today. It was in our home that our parents, whom we now pray look on us from eternity, provided our first example of living the faith. As a priest I have been blessed to live in many parishes and other communities where my faith has been strengthened and renewed. I am grateful to all of them. I am sure they have prepared me for the new responsibility I assume in this Office of Bishop. Today I am grateful as well to all who work in the Pastoral Center and the Central Ministries of the Archdiocese with whom I collaborate most closely. It will be our responsibility to assist the Cardinal in leading the Archdiocese in its effort to plan for the future by evangelizing in the present. I suggest that we do well to promise to pray for each other, and our intention would be that we each strive to make the community of the Church in Boston one which truly is “living the truth in love”.

Thank you again, Your Eminence, and my gratitude to all of you present here today.

9 November 2012

+Robert, Titular Bishop-elect of Kearney