



17 December 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The joy and peace of the Lord be with you!

As we make our preparations for the solemn celebration of the mystery of Our Savior's birth on Christmas we likewise look forward to the surprise gifts we will receive from our loved ones.

It is with gladness that I announce the good news that the Lord has given us a surprise gift for Christmas. The long wait is finally over. Some moments ago, in Rome it was announced that the Holy Father, Pope Francis has appointed Bishop-elect PABLITO TAGURA, SVD (presently Rector of the Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City) as the new Apostolic Vicar of the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Let us all praise and thank the Lord for His wonderful gift of a new shepherd. In the meantime let us pray for Bishop-elect PABLITO that God may adorn him with the necessary virtues and give him the graces he needs to faithfully and effectively carry out his responsibilities as a servant-leader in a synodal Church.

The date of his episcopal ordination and installation will be announced later.

I thank the Lord and the Holy Father for the privilege given me to serve the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose for almost six years as Apostolic Administrator. Likewise I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the Clergy, Religious men and women, lay leaders, government officials and all the lay faithful in Occidental Mindoro for your enthusiastic collaboration, steady support and generous assistance. Because of your friendship and warm hospitality I never felt like a stranger in your midst. May I request that you remember to intercede for me and the Diocese of Ilagan. I promise to hold you in my heart and to keep you in my prayers.

Devotedly yours,

Bp. David William Antonio
Apostolic Administrator