



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



September 21, 2012
The Feast of St. Matthew

Dear brothers and sisters and friends all in Fort Worth and North Texas,

Today Pope Benedict XVI has appointed me the Fourth Bishop of Orange, California. As I anticipate this next chapter of my life and ministry, I turn to Psalm 116 which prays "How can I repay the Lord of his goodness to me?" I believe that was the responsorial psalm that was used for the Mass of my ordination as Bishop of Fort Worth on July 13, 2005. I have experienced God's goodness to me in the lives of all of the people of our wonderful Diocese and beyond. Your welcome, kindness and faith have shaped my life. I have recently experienced this so powerfully in the response of so many people upon the death of my mother. She, too, loved the Diocese and its people.

I have been very proud to say these last seven years that "I am the Catholic Bishop of Fort Worth". The growth and expansion of the Diocese, its missionary spirit, and the involvement of so many people - priests, religious, and lay faithful - in every way in the life of the local Church and beyond is well known all over the United States, and in the mission outreach of our Diocese to so many parts of the world. For that and more, I humbly thank you and ask for your prayers now. My life has been changed for the better, in the Providence of God, by all of us praying and working together to further the Kingdom of God.

I will still be with you as the Apostolic Administrator until early December when I am installed as the fourth Bishop of Orange. Today is the feast day of St. Matthew the Apostle. The Lord says to Matthew in the Gospel for today "Follow Me". Through the lives of all of you I have been able to clearly hear that voice of Christ in my life to follow. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you each day.

Most gratefully yours in the Lord,

+Kevin W. Vann

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Apostolic Administrator of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

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