

Statement on Pope Francis' Appointment of Three New Auxiliary Bishops to Serve the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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*Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
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Good morning and welcome! ¡*Buenos días y bienvenidos!* I want to welcome all of you to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

We are joined today by my brother bishops — auxiliary bishops Jerry Wilkerson, Thomas Curry, Oscar Solis and Alexander Salazar. We are also joined today by our retired Cardinal Roger Mahony, who is our Archbishop Emeritus.

This morning in Rome, Pope Francis announced that he has accepted the retirement of Bishop Jerry Wilkerson, because last year he reached the retirement age for bishops, which is 75 years old. At the same time, the Holy Father announced the appointment of three new auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Bishop Wilkerson has been serving the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a priest for 50 years, and as a bishop since 1998. He has fulfilled his ministry with zeal and dedication, and we are very grateful for the many things he has done for the people of God in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are also grateful because we know that even in his retirement, his health and energy will allow him to continue his ministry among us.

I'm personally very grateful for his ministry, for his friendship, advice and fraternal support since I came to the Archdiocese.

Thank you, Bishop Wilkerson!

Of our new auxiliary bishops, two of them are priests from L.A.— Msgr. Joseph Brennan and Msgr. David O'Connell. The other is a priest from Chicago — Father Robert Barron

Esta mañana el Papa Francisco anunció que ha aceptado el retiro de Mons. Jerry Wilkerson, ya que ha alcanzado el límite de edad para la jubilación de los obispos. El Santo Padre también anunció el nombramiento de tres nuevos obispos auxiliares para la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles.

Monseñor Wilkerson ha servido a la Arquidiócesis por 50 años como sacerdote, y 17 como obispo, y estamos muy agradecidos por el celo y dedicación con que ha ejercido su ministerio. Yo estoy personalmente muy agradecido por su amistad y apoyo.

De nuestros nuevos obispos auxiliares, dos de ellos son sacerdotes de la Arquidiócesis, Mons. Joseph Brennan y Mons. David O'Connell. El tercero es sacerdote en la

Arquidiócesis de Chicago, el Padre Robert Barron. Los conozco bien a los tres y estoy muy contento con su nombramiento.

I know all three of our new bishops and I could not be happier!

They are good priests. Each one is a man of prayer and a man of service. Each one has a heart for the poor and a passion to share the good news of God's mercy and love with everyone in the world today.

Los tres son sacerdotes excelentes y tienen un gran cariño y preocupación apostólica por todos los fieles. Son hombres de oración y de servicio. Cada uno de ellos tiene gran anhelo de servir a los pobres y un gran deseo de compartir la buena nueva del amor y la misericordia de Dios con todos.

So I am delighted and grateful that the Pope has called them to be auxiliary bishops.

You have their bios and their background, but I want to introduce each one to you personally and then we can take your questions.

I want to start with Msgr. Brennan: I have been working closely with him, sometimes almost 24-7, for the past three years. He is my Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, which means he is kind of like the "CEO" and the "COO" of the Archdiocese. It's a big job and Msgr. Brennan handles it with grace and a true concern for people's needs. He is a good man and a thoughtful leader.

From my own experience, I see every day that Msgr. Brennan has the heart of a pastor. He leads a simple lifestyle and he would like nothing more than to be a parish priest in a small parish somewhere, serving his people. That's not going to happen now — he's going to have a lot of people to serve and a lot of different responsibilities!

Mons. Brennan ha sido un cercano colaborador mío en los últimos tres años. Lleva un estilo de vida muy sencillo y su corazón está con la gente. Es amigo y servidor de los pobres y más vulnerables.

Now, Msgr. O'Connell is a native of Ireland and has served in the inner city and South Central L.A. He is also a dedicated pastor with a great concern for the spiritual life of the faithful. He is one of the most respected leaders in the Church and in the local community — he is a leader on issues like immigration reform, education, unemployment, housing, violence, and finding alternatives for young people in gangs.

I know him to be a man of peace who knows how to bring people together in the community to find common solutions and common answers.

Mons. Dave es también un párroco dedicado a sus fieles, con una espiritualidad que lleva a la acción. Es un gran líder en la comunidad, especialmente en asuntos de

inmigración y justicia social, con un compromiso cristiano de servir a los pobres y a los más necesitados.

Finally, Father Barron. I predict that he's going to like the weather here a lot more than in Chicago. No more hats and gloves and snow shovels.

I know him to be a fine priest and a smart theologian with the heart and commitment of a good pastor.

He is also the author of many books and has an important online media ministry. He has even had a television series on PBS about the beauty of the Catholic faith and God's plan for creation. So I think God has sent him to the right place — the media capital of the world.

El Padre Bob es también un sacerdote con gran dedicación por la Nueva Evangelización. Tanto en su ministerio sacerdotal como en sus responsabilidades como Rector del Seminario de Mundelein en la Arquidiócesis de Chicago, se ha distinguido por su generosidad en el servicio de los demás.

También se ha distinguido por su ministerio de evangelizador en los nuevos medios de comunicación, en la Televisión y el Internet, llevando la vida y el ejemplo de Jesús a las familias, a los jóvenes, para el bien de la Iglesia y de la sociedad.

Con estos nombramientos somos testigos de que el Papa Francisco conoce bien qué es lo que necesita la Arquidiócesis de Los Angeles y la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos y el Continente Americano.

Agradecemos al Santo Padre su preocupación pastoral por la Arquidiócesis y le ofrecemos nuestras oraciones por su ministerio y por su próxima visita a los Estados Unidos este próximo mes de septiembre.

My friends, I think it is clear that in appointing these new auxiliary bishops, Pope Francis really understands what the Church needs — not just here in Los Angeles but also in the United States and across the Americas.

In the Catholic Church, we believe that every bishop is ordained to carry on the mission that Jesus gave to his apostles.

And I believe each of these new auxiliary bishops will help us in our mission here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles — the beautiful mission we have of sharing the love of God and the message of Jesus Christ and promoting human dignity and mercy and justice in our society.

So again, I personally want to express my thanks today to the Holy Father for this great gift to the people of Los Angeles. I want to thank you all for being with us to share our joy and gratitude. May God bless you and your families!

Gracias a todos por venir esta mañana y por compartir nuestra alegría por los nuevos Obispos Auxiliares de la Arquidiócesis. Que Dios los bendiga a todos y a sus familias.

I'm happy to ask our new Auxiliary Bishops to come forward for a brief presentation.