



**Pensacola-Tallahassee Edition front page story**

**Bishop Ricard's Statement concerning Bishop Martin Holley's ordination**

## **Bishop Martin D. Holley ordained in Washington**

---

**By Peggy DeKeyser, Washington**

Bishop Martin D. Holley first heard the whisperings of the Holy Spirit calling him to ministry in a very small, simple country church in Cantonment in the Florida Panhandle 40 years ago. On July 2, he answered another call from the Holy Spirit, saying "Yes, Lord" yet again; this time in the ornate Cathedral of St. Matthew, resplendent with gold, ruby and cobalt mosaics, in Washington, D.C.

In a ceremony abundant with the dignity, ancient rituals and majesty of the church, Bishop Holley was ordained as the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop of Washington. Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ, bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, and Bishop Leonard Olivier, SVD, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Washington, were the principal co-consecrators.

More than 300 people — including all five of Bishop Holley's sisters, three of his brothers, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, clergy, and friends — traveled from northwest Florida to Washington to participate in the ordination. Before Mass, Bishop Holley circulated through the church, unhurriedly greeting his well-wishers.

The procession entered the cathedral shortly after 2 p.m., as the massive pipe organ intoned "Ubi Caritas," and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission." Deacons led the procession, followed by more than 100 priests of both dioceses. Next in

the procession, Msgr. Michael Cherup, Father Tom Guido and Father Joseph Callipare carried the ring, crosier and miter that would become Bishop Holley's insignia of office.

The bishop-designate, accompanied by Msgr. Slade Crawford and Father Kevin Johnson, his attending priests, came next, his face lit by a gentle smile.

Concelebrating archbishops and bishops followed, numbering more than 30. The other auxiliary bishops of Washington, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell and Bishop Francisco Gonzalez, processed with the concelebrating bishops.

Bishop Ricard and Bishop Olivier; Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio; Cardinal William Keeler, archbishop of Baltimore; and Cardinal McCarrick completed the entrance processional. Cardinal William Baum, former archbishop of Washington, was seated in the sanctuary at the start of the procession.

Among the hierarchy present were Bishop René H. Gracida, bishop emeritus of Corpus Christi, Texas; and Bishop John M. Smith, bishop of Trenton, N.J.; both former bishops of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

To begin the Liturgy of the Word, Carmen Rouco Dominguez of the archdiocese proclaimed the first reading (Jer 1:4-9) in Spanish. The Scripture passage recalls the doubts of a young Jeremiah, and counters with the Lord's words to the prophet, "To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Following the responsorial psalm ("Shepherd Me, O God,") Deborah Holley-Donald, sister of Bishop Holley, climbed the steps to the ambo to proclaim the second reading (Rom 12:4-8): "Just as each one of us has one body with many members, and not all the members share the same function, so too we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members of one another."

Deacon Kyle T. Ingels of the archdiocese proclaimed the Gospel from John (15:9-17): "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you," the deacon read, as Bishop Holley stood across the sanctuary, hands folded heavenward.



**Bishop Martin D. Holley**

After the proclamation of the Gospel, the choir led the entire assembly in singing "Veni Creator Spiritus" to begin the Rite of Ordination. As Cardinal McCarrick, Bishop Ricard, and Bishop Olivier were seated in front of the marble altar, Msgr. Godfrey Mosley presented Bishop Holley to the cardinal with the words, "Most Reverend Father, the holy Catholic Church, our mother, asks you to ordain this priest, the Reverend Martin David Holley, to the office of bishop." Cardinal McCarrick responded by asking, "Have you a mandate from the Holy See?" and requesting that the letter from Pope John Paul II appointing Bishop Holley as titular bishop of Rusubisir and auxiliary bishop of Washington be read.



TFC PHOTO BY PEGGY DEKEYSER

**Bishop John H. Ricard lays his hands on Washington Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley during the ordination ceremony in Washington.**

Archbishop Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, then read the letter from the pope, while Bishop Holley stood facing him. At the conclusion of the reading of the appointment letter, all present applauded in acclamation. Cardinal McCarrick then addressed the assembly on the place and role of the bishop within the church community.

During his homily, Cardinal McCarrick noted that the principles of the Gospel are not always respected in today's world. "That should never hold us back from proclaiming them with joy and courage," he said. He told the new bishop that when his work gets heavy, to always remain joyful in "knowing the Father loves you. Know that the Father has loved you from the beginning of time." Cardinal McCarrick urged Washington's new bishop to "rejoice and find strength" in being holy as he serves his new family of faith.

Following his homily, and according to an ancient custom of the church, Cardinal McCarrick questioned Bishop Holley about his resolve to fulfill the responsibilities of his episcopal ministry: "And so, dear brother, do you resolve by the grace of the Holy Spirit to discharge until death the office entrusted to us by the apostles, which we are about to pass on to you by the laying-on of hands?" Bishop Holley responded, "I do," to this and to the additional questions posed by the cardinal.

Cardinal McCarrick, Bishop Ricard and Bishop Olivier, along with all present, then knelt, while Bishop Holley prostrated himself on a rug in the middle of the sanctuary. As he lay on the floor, all joined in responding to the litany chanted by the cantor. The names of family members' patron saints were inserted into the litany in honor of Bishop Holley's brothers and sisters, who prayed with tear-filled eyes from the front pews of the cathedral.

Bishop Holley then knelt in the middle of the sanctuary. Cardinal McCarrick descended the altar steps, and, invoking the power of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit given by Christ to the apostles, silently laid his hands upon Bishop Holley's head. Bishop Ricard and Bishop Olivier also imposed hands, along with all the other bishops.

As Bishop Holley continued kneeling in front of the altar, Cardinal McCarrick presented the Book of Gospels to Deacon Steve Wulf and Deacon Rey Castellano, who stood beside him. In a rite dating back to the fifth or sixth century, the deacons held the Gospel book over Bishop Holley's head, reminding the new bishop that one of his chief responsibilities is to preach the good news.

Taking a pitcher of sacred chrism, the cardinal next anointed Bishop Holley's head, signifying the full share in the priesthood of Christ that he had received through the laying-on of hands and prayer of ordination. The cardinal also presented the new bishop with the Book of Gospels, along with an exhortation to "Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with all patience and sound teaching."

Next, the newly ordained bishop received the signs of his office: the ring, symbolizing his authority and espousal to the church; the miter, a sign of his role as a herald of truth; and the crosier, or pastoral staff, a sign of his role as spiritual shepherd. The crosier was presented to Cardinal McCarrick for presentation to Bishop Holley by Father Guido — a gift from the people of St. Jude Parish in Cantonment, and gave it to the cardinal for presentation to Bishop Holley.

Cardinal McCarrick then led Bishop Holley to a bishop's chair placed near the ambo, and invited all to join in congratulating the newly ordained bishop. Applause rang through the cathedral for nearly five minutes.

The ordination Mass progressed to the Liturgy of the Eucharist in which Bishop Holley's sisters Angela Holley, Rita Pace, Mary Holley and Carolyn Holley, and brother Anthony Holley; along with staff members from Little Flower Parish, Penny Gorecki, Linda Wulf and Michael Kober, presented the gifts to the altar.

During the preparation of the gifts, one small detail came into view. On the credence table at the back of the sanctuary, along with the Communion cups and bowls made of precious metals, was a simple photograph of Mary Elizabeth Jemison Holley, Bishop Holley's late mother.

Cardinal McCarrick was joined at the altar by Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop Montalvo, Bishop Holley, Bishop Ricard and Bishop Olivier as principal concelebrants. Bishop Holley distributed Communion to his family, then returned to the sanctuary.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop Holley, accompanied by Bishop Ricard and Bishop Olivier, processed throughout the cathedral as Bishop Holley blessed all present. On his return to the sanctuary, he was awarded special recognition in the form of a presentation from the office of the mayor of Washington.

Bishop Holley then approached the ambo to deliver personal remarks. He began by consecrating himself and his ministry to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He also thanked all those who had assisted him throughout his ministry, and especially those who had been helpful in the weeks between the announcement of his appointment and his

ordination. In closing, Bishop Holley called upon all to "Say 'yes' to the Holy Spirit of God; say 'yes' to our Lord Jesus Christ."

After the pontifical blessing and the dismissal, all chanted "Salve Regina," led by the cantor. Along with Bishop Holley — now a long way from that little church in Cantonment — the deacons, priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals processed out of the cathedral as the huge pipe organ filled the space with "Jesus Shall Reign."

"I have been called to serve in this apostolic ministry, but it is not about me — it is about Jesus Christ," Bishop Holley said. "Like our Blessed Mother Mary, this calling is about Jesus Christ and following his will. All of us have been consecrated through our baptism as Roman Catholics to raise our heads to the Father and set our faces toward the new Jerusalem. We are all called to be saints in the making. We are called to be holy as Christ is holy. And we are all faced with the question, 'What does Christ want me to do for him, today, right now?' We are to be totally committed to following the way of Jesus, placing our hands on the plow and not looking back."

At the end of Mass, Cardinal McCarrick told Bishop Holley, "Thank you for saying 'yes' and for becoming part of our family." After a representative of the mayor of the District of Columbia read a proclamation that July 2 was Bishop Martin David Holley Day in the nation's capital, the cardinal joked, "I knew Monday was a holiday, but I didn't know Friday was a Holley-day, too!" Cardinal McCarrick said that he has no doubt that Washington's new bishop "will be a great grace to this local church," and he echoed Bishop Holley's comments about the importance of praying and working for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. [Back to Top](#)

#### **Bishop Ricard's Statement: Concerning Bishop Martin Holley's ordination**

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Bishop Martin Holley as he assumes the responsibility of auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington. We are on the one hand overjoyed that he has been chosen by our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, to assist Cardinal Theodore McCarrick as his auxiliary bishop. We are also sad that he is leaving us, and that we will no longer have the benefit of his outstanding priestly service in our diocese.

Bishop Holley is first of all, in his heart, a pastor, someone who untiringly and single-heartedly has devoted his entire life in service to God's people. Now he will bring this important gift to the awesome responsibility he is assuming as auxiliary bishop. We have every confidence that he will continue to serve the church well in this new capacity. He will face many challenges in this new position. There will be the adjustment to a colder climate, distance from his family and friends, and the ministry to a daunting urban environment which will all place demands on his pastoral skills in a manner he has not experienced before. More than ever, he is going to need our love, our prayers and support. I know that I speak on behalf of everyone who knows him that he will, without a doubt, rise to the occasion and meet the challenges of this new and exciting ministry.

We wish Bishop Holley well. I personally welcome him to the episcopal ranks. I will have the opportunity of being with him at our bishops' meetings and perhaps offering him a word of advice or two. We hope that he

will be permitted to return to us from time to time, first to visit his large family, and then the rest of us, who are his extended family.

May God who has called you be with you, Bishop Holley, and may you always know that the folks back home are cheering for you and love you!

[Back to Top](#)

Copyright © 1996-2004 *The Florida Catholic* Newspaper - all rights reserved  
498 S. Lake Destiny Rd, Orlando FL 32810  
(407) 660-9141 - Fax (407) 660-2977  
Call Toll-Free: 1-888-275-9953  
E-Mail Protected by [AVP Anti-Viral Plugin for IMS](#)