



Gathered beneath the red glow of the Sanctuary Lamp, with a demonstration of Spirit and Power, we rest our faith in the Power of God:

Ordinary Time at Our Holy Redeemer on the 5 February 2017 was (as the cover Page of our bulletin says it was): “anything but ordinary”! Not only was it the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time and Scout Sunday at Our Holy Redeemer (as it was elsewhere throughout the United States and the world) and a blessed opportunity to acknowledge the presence in our community of Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and numerous Scout-masters and parents, but Our Holy Redeemer also welcomed *home* our new Diocesan Bishop: the Most Reverend John O. Barres!

As many readers of our Parish bulletin know, the Most Reverend John O. Barres was appointed the Fifth Bishop of Rockville Centre on 9 December 2016 and was subsequently installed as our Bishop on 31 January 2017. What readers of our Parish bulletin don't know (that is until now) was that our new Bishop *came home* to Our Holy Redeemer for 8:00 A.M. Mass on 5 February 2017 and offered his first Sunday Mass as our Diocesan Bishop, our chief shepherd and successor to the Apostles, on the Altar of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport! EXTRAORDINARY!

From the moment the Right Reverend Charles E. McDonnell, second Bishop of Brooklyn *came home* and dedicated our “absolutely beautiful church” on 11 June 1911, Bishops have been a part of extraordinary things at Our Holy Redeemer. They have *come home* to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, celebrate anniversaries, and they have even *come home* to live, as did the Most Reverend Paul H. Walsh from June 2010 until his untimely death on 18 October 2014 (*Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen.*) Never before however, has the Altar at 37 South Ocean Avenue been the site of a Diocesan Bishop's first Sunday Mass! EXTRAORDINARY!

Please join me in showing gratitude for this undeserved blessing by praying for our new Bishop, entrusting him to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and by *letting your light shine before others* with a pledge to the *2017 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. That trinity of gifts will help provide our good shepherd with everything – spiritual and material – he needs to answer the call to holiness and mission as he lays down his life in both ordinary and extraordinary ways!

“O God, Eternal Shepherd of the faithful, Who tend Your Church in countless ways and rule over her in love, grant, we pray, that John, Your servant, whom You have set over Your people, may preside in the place of Christ over the flock whose shepherd he is, and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine, a Priest of sacred worship and as one who serves them by governing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Mary help of Christians, pray for him.

