I am humbled by the confidence that Pope Benedict XVI has placed in me by entrusting to me the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. As the old saying goes, "God writes straight with crooked lines," and I trust that, even with my limitations and shortcomings, God's will is being accomplished in the midst of this unexpected call in my service to the Church.

I am and will always remain grateful to the priests and people of the Diocese of Oakland who welcomed me with such gracious hospitality immediately upon my arrival in the Diocese. I regret that my time among them as the pastor of that local Church was so brief. The East Bay is a place rich in diversity and cultural and spiritual vibrancy, and I was so looking forward to continuing to build on these resources with so many of my valued collaborators by tapping into the creative energy that has always characterized the Diocese of Oakland. To all of the wonderful priests and priestly people of the Oakland Diocese, please know that I love you and will continue to hold you in prayer and remain grateful for all you have taught me about what it takes to be a leader in the Church today.

At the same time, I look forward to assuming my new pastoral responsibilities with and for the priests and people of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. I wish to thank Archbishop Niederauer in particular for the support he has always shown me from the day of the announcement of my appointment to Oakland, and especially now in my transition as his successor. The Church of San Francisco has a tremendous legacy of Catholic ministries and participation in the local community for serving the common good. While assuming the pastoral care of a local Church as its bishop is always a daunting challenge, I am encouraged by the history we have to build upon and take confidence that, with much prayer and hard work, and with the grace of God, we will, together, be able to further the New Evangelization in this corner of the world we call home.

Acepto con humildad la confianza que el Santo Padre Papa Benedicto Dieciséis ha puesto en mí al confiarme la cura pastoral de la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco, y me comprometo a hacer todo lo posible, con la gracia de Dios, de seguir el ejemplo del Buen Pastor en mi nuevo encargo.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad también para expresar mis más profundas gracias a los sacerdotes y al pueblo de la Diócesis de Oakland por su valiosa colaboración y por el gran espíritu de hospitalidad que siempre ha marcado esta preciosa Iglesia local.

Agradezco además todo el apoyo que Su Excelencia, el Arzobispo Niederauer me ha brindado desde el momento del anuncio de mi nombramiento a Oakland y especialmente ahora en mi transición como su sucesor.

Ahora pido a Dios Su gracia y misericordia para que, indigno que yo sea, pueda cumplir la misión de la Nueva Evangelización junto con los sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosas y religiosos y todos los fieles laicos aquí en los tres condados que componen la Arquidiócesis de San Francisco.