

Statement of Bishop-elect Artur Bubnevych

Christ is among us!

By the grace of God and with deep feeling of unworthiness, but with a joyful heart and in utter thankfulness I say YES to the appointment of His Holiness Pope Francis to serve the clergy and the faithful of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix as their sixth bishop.

The Eparchy was founded in 1981 as the Eparchy of Van Nuys, which was based in Los Angeles, California. Since 1995 the offices have been in Phoenix, Arizona. This westernmost eparchy of our Metropolitan Province has vibrant parishes, missions, and outreaches from New Mexico to Alaska and Hawaii, with energetic laypeople who make many sacrifices to be able to grow in faith as Byzantine Catholics. The eparchy is known for its attachment to traditional liturgical life and to innovations in evangelization and organization; its embrace of different cultures and languages; its service to others; and its young population in thirteen states.

As the sixth bishop, I pledge to continue to improve the good work of my predecessors by sowing seeds of the Gospel in every kind of soil alongside the clergy of the Eparchy of Phoenix, through my prayer, fasting, and penance with its religious and dedicated service to its laity. I will aspire to be a builder of a synodal and missionary Church and with enthusiasm to commit myself to reach this goal by actively listening to the Holy Spirit and do this in a spirit of sharing and fraternity with eparchial clergy and my brother bishops. I hope to be a listening bishop and a missionary of synodality according to the mandate of the Holy Father Pope Francis given to me at the World gathering of the Parish Priests for the Synod in April-May of this year.

I would like to convey my most sincere gratitude:

To Pope Francis for his trust and confidence in me.

To Bishop Gerald Dino of blessed memory for ordaining me to the order of priesthood and giving me my very first assignment and believing in me.

To His grace Metropolitan William Skurla, Bishop Kurt Burnette, Bishop Robert Pipta, and Bishop John Pazak for their example of leadership support and guidance.

To the eparchial clergy and religious with whom I served for the past 10 years.

I am thrilled to serve you now as your Bishop with trust and respect.