



BISHOP JOEL M. KONZEN, S.M.

The Episcopal Ordination of Marist Joel Konzen took place this week at the Cathedral of Christ the King in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. The Monday evening Solemn Vespers and Tuesday afternoon Ordination were attended by his family, Marist confreres and many others who gathered to support this significantly new chapter in his ministerial life.



Bishop Konzen's coat of arms

Bishop Joel's chosen motto, "Miserere Gaudens" was translated in the Solemn Vespers program: "Be Merciful and with a Cheerful Heart." His Coat of Arms includes this motto and the emblem of the Society of Mary as the monogram of Mary. Joel also included the Sub Tuum Praesidium in the program:

We turn to you for protection,
Holy Mother of God. Listen to our prayers
And help us in our needs.
Save us from every danger,
Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen

The vespers included the oath of fidelity and the blessing of the Pontifical Insignia which Joel would receive at the ordination: the miter, crozier and bishop's ring. At the conclusion, Bishop-elect Konzen offered remarks, noting that his pectoral cross was that of Bishop Joseph Bernardin, the first auxiliary bishop of Atlanta. He claimed "the soul of my ministry" expressed in his motto "Miserere Gaudens" and asked those gathered "to pray for me" as he entered into this new service to the people of God.

Prior to the rite, Joel stood in the sanctuary with Marist Vicar General John Harhager and Marist Provincial Paul Frechette. For the rite of ordination, John officially requested Archbishop Gregory to ordain Joel to the Episcopacy. Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre read Pope Francis' Apostolic Mandate. Bishop-elect Konzen then displayed the Apostolic Letter to the congregation accompanied by Paul.

"This son of Mary comes to this moment...he asks for our prayers...that the Mother of God...will accompany her son Joel in this new mission." Archbishop Gregory



Bishop Konzen receives his crozier from Archbishop Gregory