

**Apostolic Letter of Appointment  
from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI  
appointing Msgr. Frank J. Dewane  
as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida**

Benedict  
Bishop  
Servant of the Servants of God

To the beloved son Francis J. Dewane, presbyter of the ecclesial community of Green Bay, so dear to us, and also, up until now, Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, appointed coadjutor Bishop of the Church in Venice, greetings and Apostolic blessing.

Our venerable brother John Joseph Nevins, solicitous for both the current pastoral needs as well as the future of the Diocese of Venice, an ecclesial community which he has governed, in the name of Christ, for twenty-two years, not long ago, with confidence, requested from this Apostolic See a coadjutor Bishop, so that, from a common plan, he might be able to prepare for the future, prudently building up and strengthening the flock, which, from its inception, has known him as its only zealous shepherd. Inasmuch as in our judgment his request is surely just and reasonable, we do not hesitate to grant the petition of the aforementioned ordinary, so that this sound course of action may, indeed, be effectively carried out.

Therefore, beloved son, since especially in your service at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace you have manifested the necessary priestly virtues and, in equal measure, the requisite qualities of character, we, for our part, accepting the opinion of the congregation for Bishops and from the fullness of our Apostolic authority, gladly appoint you Coadjutor Bishop of Venice. At the same time, to be sure, we grant to you all the rights and privileges, which the sacred canons connect with such an appointment and activity, while likewise we impose upon you all the relative duties and obligations. Having duly made the profession of the right faith and taken the oath of fidelity toward us and our successors, you may receive episcopal ordination anywhere, the liturgical statues of the Church being observed.

In the meantime, moreover, you will take care to inform, in the appropriate manner, the flock of Venice about this our judgment concerning you: for it is to them that you are now joined as Coadjutor Bishop.

Finally, beloved son, we earnestly exhort you in Christ the Lord never to forget this higher dignity among the shepherds of the Church and of your position, so that, as a true coworker in the divine vineyard, you will assist, with all your strength, your devoted ordinary, diligently providing for the years to come. Each day, in your priestly prayers, fervently beseech the Divine Teacher for the help, support and light you will need, confident that the all-merciful Redeemer will always be with you from on high, as conscientiously you minister for the spiritual benefit of the clergy and people of Venice.

Given at Rome, at Saint Peter's, on the twenty-fifth day of the month of April, in the year of the Lord two thousand six, the second of our Pontificate.

Benedict P.P., XVI

Bryan Chestle,  
Protonotary Apostolic