

Bishop Etienne: The reason it is possible to be a bishop is because we are called by Christ

'Be humble. Be what you have been which has led so many to write in favor of your possible appointment as a bishop. Be the same pastor and brother that has led so many of your brother priests from Indianapolis to fly the long distance to hand you over to another Church.'

Bishop Robert Lynch during homily

**By Kathrine Patton
Special Edition Editor**

The faithful of Wyoming welcomed their new shepherd with hope-filled hearts, realizing, from the words spoken about him at his ordination, how gracious and humble a man he is, and that the diocese has truly been blessed.

Nearly 1,500 people gathered at the Cheyenne Civic Center for the ordination and installation of Bishop Paul D. Etienne, Dec. 9. The Mass was held at the Civic Center to accommodate the crowd and because St. Mary's Cathedral is in the

process of being restored. Bishop Robert M. Lynch, Bishop of St. Petersburg and longtime friend of Bishop Etienne, gave the homily.

Bishop Lynch recalled the words of Matthew from the Gospel, "For my yoke is easy and my burden light." He spoke of the responsibilities and expectations of a bishop of the past and those of today. Among the qualities he said a bishop should have, are those of being a good teacher and a steward of God, characteristics noted by St. Paul in the pastoral epistles.

He spoke of Bishop Etienne as a humble man who had spent the last 17

and a half years "becoming a good pastor, spiritual director and servant leader."

"So soon-to-be Bishop Paul, the great expectations which everyone has here today and the challenge of the Pauline objectives can be met if you just remain yourself, comfortable with who you are," he said.

He described being a bishop as "a ministry of loving service to be lived out" rather than a role to be played.

"Be humble. Be what you have been which has led so many to write in favor of your possible appointment as a bishop. Be the same pastor and

brother that has led so many of your brother priests from Indianapolis to fly the long distance to hand you over to another Church," Bishop Lynch said. Among those present for the ordination, 43 priests from Indiana flew on a chartered flight to witness their beloved brother become a bishop.

"Be the pastor whom people in all the parishes which you have served who said farewell to you in tears these last few weeks will long to remember," Bishop Lynch urged the new bishop.

"When he learned from Archbishop Sambhi that the Holy Father

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Bishop Paul D. Etienne sits in the 'cathedra' or the bishop's chair after being ordained and installed as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne. The 'cathedra' was moved for the Mass to the Cheyenne Civic Center from its home at St. Mary's Cathedral. The ordination was held at the Cheyenne Civic Center, Dec. 9. Photo by James Baca



During the ordination ceremony, Bishop Etienne lies prostrate before principal ordaining bishop, Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver. Lying prostrate is a demonstration of great humility and submission to Christ and his Church. Photo by James Baca



Above left - Sister Nicolette Etienne, O.S.B., sister of Bishop Etienne, reads the first reading during her brother's episcopal ordination.

Above, Preparations are made prior to Mass with the various items the bishop will need laid out for him, including a pectoral cross.



Bishop Paul D. Etienne addresses dignitaries, family, and faithful during his ordination. During his remarks, he spoke to his new family and spouse-the People of God of the Diocese of Cheyenne. He greeted them in the name of Jesus Christ. He spoke of embracing them "with a pastor's heart, freshly filled with the grace and love of Jesus Christ." Photo courtesy Wyoming Tribune-Eagle



A group of faithful from the Diocese of Cheyenne gather with sign and song to greet Bishop-elect Etienne when he arrives for his ordination Mass. Photo by James Baca



Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne introduced his parents, Kay and Paul Etienne to those gathered for his ordination. The introduction was met with a standing ovation, the crowd recognizing the contributions of the parents to the new shepherd. Photos by James Baca