



The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan

July 8, 2002

My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

When I was introduced to you as your new archbishop a couple of weeks ago, I described myself as a man “honored, humbled, hopeful, happy, excited...but most of all, *grateful*.”

I renew those sentiments now. On Independence Day, I expressed my utter *dependence* upon the Lord as I prepare for this new apostolic challenge given me by the Holy Father. Without the Lord, nothing is possible; with Him, all things are possible.

Likewise I am dependent upon all of you, upon Archbishop Weakland and Bishop Sklba, upon my brother priests and deacons, our loyal pastoral collaborators, and the wonderful faithful of the Church in southeastern Wisconsin. Your expressions of interest and support mean the world to me. Again, as I said on June 25th, “I can already say that I love you, I need you, and I relish the prospect of coming to know you, listening to you, and serving you.”

These weeks of preparation for my installation on August 28th, the feast of St. Augustine, will be a period of fervent prayer for me, and I would deeply appreciate your own spiritual solidarity. As I often find myself before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, or united with His Mother, Mary, I always pray for you, with love and trust. To know that you are praying for me as well is a tremendous gift. I was so moved when I heard that you were already interceding for “Timothy, our archbishop-designate” at every Eucharist.

I believe with all my heart and soul that this is a providential moment of hope and interior renewal in the Church. That gives me joy, confidence, and gratitude. I am so eager to share that with you.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop-elect of Milwaukee