



Pastor's Message

May 22, 2020

As you well know, on April 15th, Pope Francis named Reverend Kevin Sweeney, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, as Bishop-elect of the Paterson Diocese.

As a good member of the Roman Catholic Church, have you ever wondered about the process of selecting a new bishop for a diocese? In case you have, I provide some brief information to compliment your present knowledge about the process.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/appointing-bishops.cfm>

Some worthwhile observations from the aforementioned information are the following:

1. In Stage 2, the Apostolic Nuncio “not only gathers facts and information about potential candidates, but also interprets the information for the congregation.” Imagine that! The weight of one man’s “interpretation” is fairly immense for people living in the diocese in need of a bishop. He has the serious responsibility to either persuade or dissuade Vatican officials to make a selection of a candidate from a group of other candidates.
2. In Stage 4, the Pope decides. What happens if the Pope decides not to accept any of the recommendations? Most likely, he will not select the person himself, although he has the right to do so. The process probably would return to an abbreviated Stage 2, then, move to Stage 3 again.
3. And, interestingly, after all is said and done, even after the Pope has agreed on the candidate, the candidate could refuse to accept the appointment!
4. Although not mentioned at all in the information online, it is my presumption prayer is offered throughout the process. Most especially, to the Holy Spirit for the selection of the “right man” for the job.

Peace,
Fr. Marc