

for your Lordship an International reputation and knowing this we were pleased to learn that Our Holy Father the Sovereign Pontiff in his great wisdom and foresight had chosen you to fill the vacant See of your native diocese. We congratulate your Lordship on your appointment to that exalted position for which you are so eminently qualified.

Your illustrious predecessor the late lamented Bishop O'Connor whose death was universally mourned and deplored by the people of this diocese, was a great Prelate. His piety and zeal in his work, his great Christian charity and kindness of manner endeared him to clergy and laity alike. His record as priest and bishop was worthy of the highest emulation.

While we pay our humble tribute to his sacred memory we can not but rejoice to know that his mantle has fallen upon worthy shoulders. We feel assured that your Lordship will add lustre to the high and holy office to which you have been chosen, and we express the hope that you may be spared many, many years of health and strength. That your labors in the Master's vineyard may bear fruit a thousand fold, that Almighty God in His Infinite mercy may sustain and support you in the functions of your sacred calling is the fervent prayer of St. Michael's Congregation.

With your Lordship's permission we also desire to take this opportunity of giving expression to our very high appreciation of our faithful and devoted pastor.