



## **Catholic Diocese of Richmond**

December 5, 2017

### A Message from the Very Reverend Monsignor Mark Richard Lane, Diocesan Administrator

“Today’s announcement couldn’t come at a more perfect time for us in the Diocese of Richmond. As we begin the Advent season, a time of great excitement and hope for the coming of Christ, we are also filled with abundant joy and happiness that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has named a new Chief Shepherd so quickly to guide us as we begin a new year and chapter in the life of our diocese. On behalf of our diocesan faith community, we are grateful to Bishop-designate Barry C. Knestout for accepting this call and we welcome him with open arms and jubilant hearts.

I look forward to working with Bishop-designate Knestout and assisting him as he begins his work to serve Christ, the faithful and to build up the household of faith in our diocese as we prepare to celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We offer our prayers for him and we assure the people of the Archdiocese of Washington, where bishop-designate Knestout has served for the last nine years as auxiliary, he will be met with a spirit of excitement and gratitude.”