



## DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

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May 27, 2016

His Holiness  
Pope Francis  
00120 Vatican City State  
EUROPE

Most Holy Father,

Having reached today my seventy-fifth birthday, I hereby wish to submit to you my request to retire as ordinary of the Diocese of St. Petersburg in accordance with Canon 401.1 of the Code of Canon Law.

It has been an incomparable privilege to have served the clergy, religious and laity of this diocese for more than twenty years. I shall always be grateful to Saint John Paul II for extending to me this wonderful pastoral office. My successor whom you shall choose will be inheriting a healthy, vibrant and growing local Church and he shall have my total support.

With grateful thanks to Almighty God for giving me the joy of sharing the Gospel with others during your exciting and wonderful pontificate and promising my prayers for you always, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch  
Bishop of St. Petersburg