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**Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski Statement on Pope Francis' Appointment of  
Bishop-elect William Byrne to the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts**

The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, issued the following statement after Pope Francis appointed Bishop-elect William Byrne to the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts:

***I am delighted to hear of the Holy Father's appointment of Bishop-elect William Byrne to Springfield, Massachusetts.***

***With this announcement, Pope Francis has given a great gift to my former diocese. Bishop-elect Byrne's 26 years of experience in the Archdiocese of Washington will serve him well in supporting the faithful of Western Massachusetts. He is a communicator who is adept at using many platforms to spread the Word of Our Lord Jesus Christ—namely, those platforms which particularly engage our younger generations.***

***As a graduate of Holy Cross College, Bishop-elect Byrne is not a stranger to Massachusetts, and I expect that experience will support him in his transition. In Western Massachusetts, Bishop-elect Byrne will find a loving people who are passionate about the Catholic faith and willing to support him in his ministry as they did for me over the last six years. I would like to thank my brother Bishop Robert McManus of Worcester, Massachusetts for shepherding these wonderful people in the interim, and I look forward to the installation of Bishop-elect Byrne to the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts in December.***

***I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop-elect William Byrne and to the people of Western Massachusetts who will welcome him with open arms.***

***-Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis***

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