



1st October, 2011

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**MESSAGE BY ARCHBISHOP PAUL CREMONA O.P.
TO BISHOP EMANUEL BARBARA OFM Cap
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EPISCOPAL ORDINATION**

Your Excellency,

My prayers are with you and the Congregation present today for your Episcopal Consecration, amongst the beloved people of Kenya whom you are called to serve.

Your mission amongst your flock is to strengthen them in the Faith as Jesus called Peter to strengthen the other apostles: “you in your turn must strengthen your Brothers” (Lk 22, 32). Through them, and led by your example, the Christian community will then help all others to whom they, as a Christian community, have been called to serve in all charity and justice

Dear brethren in the priesthood, in the Religious life and in Baptism,

I know that the Church in Malta and the Maltese Franciscan Capuchin Province are proud that the Lord, through His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, has chosen one of us to serve the Church in Kenya, more specifically the Church in the Diocese of Malindi, and the Kenyan People in that part of the country.

Bishop Barbara comes to you as a priest who has already shown his love for the Church in Kenya, having served there already for a number of years. Now, after passing some years in Malta, the Lord is calling him to serve again this Church and its people, this time as Bishop.

He is carrying with him this love for all of you. I remember once when as Provincial, I had to visit the brethren in Brazil. I concelebrated, along with the other Maltese Dominican Missionaries, at a Mass celebrated by the local Bishop. In the homily he turned to the congregation and shared this thought: “Who do you think are the true Brazilians: We are Brazilians because we were born here. These (the Missionaries) are the true Brazilians: because they have chosen to come here to help the Church and the Brazilian People”.

May I borrow this thought to apply it to Bishop Barbara. Accept not just his service, but also the love which he carries within him in the Lord for all of you.

May this love be also a reflection of the love with which this Church, this country of Malta has offered him to be with you in their name. Through him there is a new link between the Church in Malindi and the Church in Malta. May this continue to flourish

May the Lord bless you all.

✠ PAUL CREMONA O.P.
Archbishop of Malta