



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF  
**BROWNSVILLE**

**STATEMENT**

December 1, 2025

**Bishop Daniel E. Flores' Statement  
on the appointment of Bishop Mario Avilés CO,  
as the 9th Bishop of Corpus Christi**

On behalf of the people of the Rio Grande Valley, I receive with joy and thanksgiving the news that Pope Leo XIV has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Mario Alberto Avilés CO, of the Diocese of Brownsville, to become now the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Bishop Avilés has generously served the Diocese of Brownsville as a priest of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri since 1998, and as Auxiliary Bishop since 2018. Christ the Good Shepherd, through the decision of Pope Leo XIV, now calls Bishop Mario to offer his many gifts for the glory of God and good of the people in the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

The Diocese of Corpus Christi has over the years generously shared of her clergy to serve as bishops in Brownsville, including the first bishop of Brownsville, Bishop Adolph Marx. Both Bishop Raymundo J. Peña and I began our priestly service in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Now, by God's providence, a moment has arrived for the Diocese of Brownsville to share of her clergy for service to the people of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

The Diocese of Brownsville will greatly miss Bishop Mario's wise counsel and good judgment, his joyful presence in our parish communities, and his administrative skills in the service of our diocesan offices and Catholic Schools. Yet at the same time we share in the special joy of the Diocese of Corpus Christi at the news of Bishop Mario's appointment.

I ask all the faithful of the Diocese of Brownsville to pray for Bishop Mario as he prepares to take up his new mission of service in Corpus Christi. May God bless Bishop Mario Avilés and may the maternal care of the Blessed and ever Immaculate Virgin Mary accompany him always.

In Christ Jesus the Lord,

+Daniel E Flores, STD  
Bishop of Brownsville