



## **Pope Francis Accepts Bishop R. Daniel Conlon's Resignation as Bishop of Joliet**

**Joliet, IL (May 4, 2020)** – Pope Francis today announced that he has accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon as the Bishop of Joliet and appointed Bishop Richard E. Pates, Bishop Emeritus of Des Moines, as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese. Bishop Pates has been serving in this capacity while Bishop Conlon has been on medical leave.

“On behalf of the entire diocese, I extend to Bishop Conlon heartfelt thanks for the dedicated and effective ministry that he has rendered the Diocese of Joliet during his tenure as its shepherd. We assure the bishop of our continuing prayer especially for his good health. May his retirement be a blessed time. We feel fortunate that he intends to remain with us in the diocese. We look forward to celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception in his honor soon.” Bishop Pates said.

Bishop Conlon was appointed to his current post on May 17, 2011 and installed on July 14, 2011. On December 27, 2019, Pope Francis granted Bishop Conlon a medical leave of absence.

### **About the Diocese of Joliet**

The Diocese of Joliet serves more than 616,000 Catholics in 118 parishes and 7 missions in seven counties in Illinois: DuPage, Will, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, Ford and Iroquois Counties, a geographic area of 4,218 square miles. The diocese has more than 3,000 employees in its systems and ministries, including Catholic Charities. The diocese’s 53 elementary and secondary schools and 3 Catholic Universities serve over 33,750 students and 38,929 religious education students.

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