

Dear family in Christ

This message is to inform you that Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, the Bishop of our diocese of Joliet, has received permission from Pope Francis for his resignation because of health issues. The letter from Pope Francis and from Bishop Conlon are now on our website, if you would like to read them. Please keep Bishop Conlon in your prayers. I am sure it is difficult for him to step away from full-time service as our Bishop.

Therefore, Bishop Emeritus, Richard Pates will remain our apostolic administrator until a new Bishop has been assigned or ordained for our diocese. At over 600,000 Catholics, the Diocese of Joliet, is one of the larger dioceses in the country.

I am ever grateful and thankful to God that it was Bishop Conlon who encouraged me to become a pastor of a parish, and he was present for both of my installations at St. John the Apostle in 2014 and St. Alexander in 2018. He could have validly delegated that role to the local Dean of this area of parishes, but chose to be here instead.

We never know when we will no longer be able to physically offer what we would like for our Church. Thus, at times such as that, we must trust in God honoring the desires of our heart as well. In our Gospel, Jesus speaks about His coming so we will have life and life to the full.

Many of God's creations have life. A rock has life, if you consider the electrons and neutrons and such present. A blade of grass or a tree has life. An animal has life. But Christ came so that we would have so much more than life, life to the fullest.

We enter into, and receive life to the fullest only when we enter into relationship with our Creator and Eternal Loving God. It is Jesus Christ who brings this alone to its' fullest. Without knowing and entering into Jesus Christ, we fall short of true life to its' fullest, because we fall short of entering into God's love completely. Jesus came down from heaven so that we would love completely because we would be entering into God's love completely only through Him.

When we reject Christ, we reject life to the fullest. When we don't believe in God, when we don't enter into Christ, yes, we have life as all of God's creation does, but we lack that relationship of knowing and entering into God's love, like the rocks and plants and animals. Christ wants us, wants humanity, to have and possess so much more, because we were created for so much more. We must always trust in this desire of God's heart and His intention for us as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

I continue to keep you in my prayers and private Masses. May God bless your persistence in faith and perseverance in His Almighty Love. Amen.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Rosenbaum