

From: **Office of the Bishop** <[OfficeOfTheBishop@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:OfficeOfTheBishop@dioceseofjoliet.org)>  
Date: Fri, Feb 14, 2025 at 12:16 PM  
Subject: "Important Information for Your Parish this Weekend"  
To: Michael Pennock ([mapennoc@gmail.com](mailto:mapennoc@gmail.com)) <[mapennoc@gmail.com](mailto:mapennoc@gmail.com)>

Dear Father:

Peace be with you. Know that I specifically prayed for you and your parish family last night and this morning. I appreciate you are adjusting to the news and its impact on your parish community. Be assured you will be provided with resources and support for your transitions. I trust in and appreciate your leadership.

Let's focus now on the next few days:

- Attached please find a specific "parish letter" from me to your parishioners about the restructuring at your parish. I ask that you or another priest read the "parish letter" at each of the masses this weekend. You may also choose to insert the letter inside your weekend bulletins or hand it out to parishioners as they depart from mass.
- Separately today, you will be receiving my official Decree for the decisions impacting your parish. I will have this sent to you from David Salvato, the Chancellor for the Diocese. David will provide important and specific instructions on your obligations to communicate the Decree.
- Please attend a Parish Transition Meeting this **Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm at St. Mary's Parish (Lourdes Conference Room) located at 19515 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Mokena**. Lunch will be served. Initial discussions will take place concerning the timeline for transition and the process for implementation of the changes. Facilitating the discussions will be the Restructuring and Implementation Consultant, Rosemarie Banich, from the Catholic Leadership Institute. Rosemarie has participated in every aspect of the Phase 3 Targeted Restructuring process over the past year. Also participating will be Bishop Spies, Father Smith, and Diocesan officials from Finance, Operations, Ministries, Communications, Personnel and Legal. Later meetings will be held for business managers, parish leaders, etc. **Please contact Julie Grzadzinski of my office at [jgrzadzinski@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jgrzadzinski@dioceseofjoliet.org) to RSVP your attendance and/or another priest from your parish**. ONLY priests from the 22 impacted parishes may attend this meeting, as well as any of the 8 deans.
- Media inquiries have been received yesterday and today. Please direct all media inquiries to our Communications team at [communications@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:communications@dioceseofjoliet.org) or at 815-221-6223.

I will continue to pray for your wisdom, strength, and leadership.

May God bless you and your parish as we work together to build a stronger, more vibrant Church within the Diocese of Joliet.

As I remain -

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop of Joliet

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