

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop Dennis E. Spies Appointed Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet

Joliet, Illinois — [February 6, 2026] — The Diocese of Joliet announces that Bishop Dennis E. Spies has been appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Joliet, effective immediately. Bishop Spies assumes this role in accordance with the norms of the Catholic Church, ensuring continuity of leadership and pastoral care for the nearly half-million Catholics across the seven counties of the diocese.

Bishop Spies, who has been serving as Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet and Titular Bishop of Cenculiana, brings more than two decades of pastoral, administrative, and formational experience to this responsibility. Ordained to the priesthood in 2002, he has served the Diocese of Joliet as pastor, seminary formator, and most recently as Vicar for Clergy, a role in which he has been widely recognized for his pastoral sensitivity, collaborative leadership style, and deep commitment to the well-being of priests and parish communities.

“I am humbled by the trust placed in me and remain committed to serving the people of God in the Diocese of Joliet with faith, integrity, and hope,” Bishop Spies said. “Together, we will continue to proclaim the Gospel, strengthen our parishes, and accompany one another as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

As Administrator, Bishop Spies will oversee the day-to-day governance of the diocese until the appointment of a new diocesan bishop. His responsibilities include supporting diocesan ministries, guiding clergy, and ensuring the smooth functioning of pastoral and administrative operations.

Born in Clifton, Illinois, Bishop Spies earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale before completing seminary studies at Mundelein Seminary. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet by Pope Francis in 2024 and ordained later that year at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus.

The Diocese of Joliet asks the faithful to join in prayer for Bishop Spies as he undertakes this important new role in service to the Church.

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