



A message to the Catholic Faithful from Most Rev. Richard E. Pates, Apostolic Administrator

April 5, 2023

Dear Friends,

My service as Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Dubuque begins with heartfelt thanks on behalf of all of you for the generous and effective ministry of Archbishop Michael Jackels these past 10 years. He has exemplified the qualities of a shepherd so frequently cited by Pope Francis of being close to his flock and envisioning the archdiocesan community as providing a “field hospital” to address the needs of our present culture.

Regrettably, his health at this time, has led to his resignation/retirement. I am confident that I express the sentiments of all, in wishing him abundant blessings in the days ahead.

For my part, I am happy to respond to the request to serve as Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese in the interim between Archbishop Jackels and his successor. I became attached to Iowa as Bishop of Des Moines and am grateful for the unexpected opportunity to spend time in the state once again.

In my role, I look forward to the ministry of administration as well as celebrating liturgy. If I can be of service to you, please contact the Administrative Assistant, Sarah Otting: via e-mail at dbqcabsec@dbqarch.org or via telephone 563-556-2580 ext. 216.

The Apostolic Nuncio in the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, has begun the process to identify the successor of Archbishop Jackels. Our prayers are with him in this important work.

I look forward to the months ahead when together we will experience the Body of Christ in this local Church.

In the service of the Lord, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator