



ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

1229 MOUNT LORETTA AVENUE • DUBUQUE, IOWA 52003

4 April 2023

To the priests and deacons in the Archdiocese of Dubuque:

On 2 February 2023, I wrote to our Holy Father Francis – long may he sit in the wheelchair of Peter – asking permission to retire early for health reasons.

On Fat Tuesday I was told that the Pope has granted my request. And 2 weeks later, the effective date was fixed for today.

It's kinda poetic that I began episcopal ministry on 4 April (in 2005) in Wichita, and I'm ending it on 4 April (in 2023) here.

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Richard Pates, the retired Bishop of Des Moines, to serve as Apostolic Administrator until the next Archbishop of Dubuque is named.

Bishop Pates will arrive later today. By the way, starting today, at Mass, we should insert the name "Richard" when we pray for our Bishop – Michael is no longer the archbishop.

I want you to know how much you mean to me. Thank you for being such good partners in ordained ministry, giving witness to diaconal service and to priestly sacrifice.

It bears repeating for me to say: Thank you for all you do. Keep up the good work. You are great. God bless you.

*Michael Jackels*

Archbishop Jackels