

# TOGETHER

*a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese*

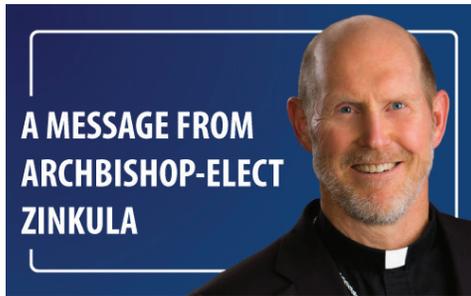


ARCHDIOCESE  
of DUBUQUE

Comments regarding this insert may be sent to communications staff by emailing [contactus@dbqarch.org](mailto:contactus@dbqarch.org) or by calling (800) 876-3546 and asking for the director of communications.

August 2023 Special Edition Vol. 3 | No. 8

This document is available as a PDF at [www.dbqarch.org/together](http://www.dbqarch.org/together)



A MESSAGE FROM  
ARCHBISHOP-ELECT  
ZINKULA

**Archbishop-elect Thomas Zinkula delivered the following message during a press conference on July 26, the day his appointment as Dubuque's eleventh archbishop was announced.**

Good morning everyone. Normally at a gathering such as this, the bishop-elect introduces himself, but I obviously don't need to do that. There is that saying: "Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know!" You thought you had gotten rid of me, but I am coming back to haunt you! Hopefully it will be more a matter of me being like an old shoe – familiar and comfortable.

I receive all the emails that the priests of the archdiocese receive, so I have a copy of the prayer that the faithful of the archdiocese have been praying: A Prayer as We Await a New Archbishop. When the apostolic nuncio, Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre, called about a month ago to inform me of this appointment, I began to pray this prayer. I have been praying that I will be the kind of bishop that the archdiocese needs and wants – that I will be "a priest of deep and true prayer, a teacher with a loving heart and a firm resolve, and a shepherd of joy and peace, who desires above all to do God's will."

In regards to the last petition in the prayer, my episcopal motto just so happens to be: "Thy will be done."

Well aware of my human weaknesses, limitations and frailties, I request that the priests, deacons, religious and faithful of

the Archdiocese of Dubuque continue to pray for me as well as for the archdiocese. I promise that I will remember you in prayer as well.

This is a bittersweet moment for me. As I said earlier this morning in an email to the archdiocesan leaders, I tend to fully immerse myself in my assignments, so it will be hard to leave the diocesan community in Davenport, with whom I have journeyed the past six years and who taught me how to be a bishop. But I nonetheless am overjoyed to receive the appointment to return to my home diocese to serve as its eleventh archbishop. It will be humbling and perhaps a bit interesting to add the role of spiritual father to my relationships with my fellow archdiocesan priests, who have been my brothers and friends for so many years.

I am well aware that the Archdiocese of Dubuque, which was created by Pope Gregory XVI in 1837, has a long, rich history. This local church has celebrated, nourished and spread the faith in this little corner of the world for 186 years. Many bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated religious and lay people have dedicated their lives to serving the people of the archdiocese.

Bearing this in mind, I recognize that I am following in the footsteps of a line of good shepherds. I have personally benefited from the ministry of Archbishop James Byrne who confirmed me; Archbishop Daniel Kucera who ordained me a priest; Archbishop Jerome Hanus who appointed me pastor, judicial vicar and episcopal vicar; and Archbishop Michael Jackels who appointed me rector of the seminary and, along with Archbishop Hanus and Bishop Martin Amos, ordained me a bishop. I have learned a great deal about episcopal leadership from each of the three archbishops under whom I served as a priest of the archdiocese.

I would like to join the archdiocese in expressing appreciation for the excellent

ministry of my immediate predecessor, Archbishop Jackels, and also in thanking Bishop Richard Pates for graciously and capably stepping in for a few months as the Apostolic Administrator of the archdiocese.

I hope that my being a native son and priest of the archdiocese will make the transition somewhat easier and quicker. I already know the clergy of the archdiocese, including those who were ordained priests since I left, since I was the rector of St. Pius X Seminary at the time of my appointment as bishop of the Diocese of Davenport. And I obviously know the archdiocese quite well, having served for 27 years in various assignments as a priest of the archdiocese. In those roles, I have ministered to thousands of the faithful of the archdiocese, and I have celebrated Mass in most of the parishes.

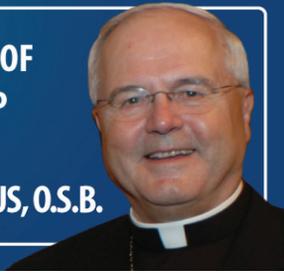
But it has been six years and the archdiocese hasn't sat still since I left. So I will need to get reacquainted with everyone and with what is happening here.

I won't be coming in with a big agenda or master plan. I have embraced the synodal process initiated by Pope Francis. So, in that vein, I hope to encounter and get to know as many people of the archdiocese as possible; to listen deeply and carefully to their thoughts, concerns and suggestions; to engage in communal discernment with the clergy and laity in regards to the path on which the Holy Spirit is leading us; and to accompany them as we journey together on that path.

When, while I was serving as rector of the seminary, I became the bishop of the Diocese of Davenport, it never crossed my mind that six years later I once again would be living at St. John Vianney, except this time one floor down and across the hall! But, again, it will be good to be home. God bless you all!

*Archbishop-elect Zinkula will be installed as the eleventh Archbishop of Dubuque on Wednesday, October 18.*

**STATEMENT OF  
ARCHBISHOP  
EMERITUS  
JEROME HANUS, O.S.B.**



The wonderful news that Bishop Thomas Zinkula has been appointed Archbishop of Dubuque fills my heart with joy. How grateful we should all be to Pope Francis; he has shown his love and concern for this local church by giving us such a fine new chief shepherd.

The new Archbishop is well-known to us because of his many years serving as a priest in the Archdiocese. There is no doubt that he will be welcomed by his brother priests, the deacons and their wives, the religious and the lay faithful. He is known as a kind and compassionate servant of the people, obviously highly competent and experienced in pastoral care, in higher education, in legal and financial matters, in support of seminarians, in the work of Catholic Charities and so much more.

To him I pledge my prayers and personal support as he takes up his duties as our new Archbishop.

---

## How Are Bishops Selected?

*Adapted from "How Are Bishops Selected?" by Michael R. Heinlein. Published by Simply Catholic.*

As the choice of a bishop potentially can guide and shape the journey of a given diocese or archdiocese for sometimes decades at a time, the nomination and appointment of bishops in the Catholic Church is one that has a significant impact on the lives and ministerial focus of Catholics in almost every segment of the Church.

The process of how these new shepherds are appointed to their new sees remains largely unknown, or at least largely opaque, to many.

Let's take a closer look at the complex undertaking of choosing a new bishop, one which originates with the needs of a local diocese and extends all the way to the desk

of the pope.

The current process for selecting bishops typically begins locally. Each diocese is part of a larger grouping — these larger territories are called metropolitan provinces, each with an archbishop.

*The Archdiocese of Dubuque with the Dioceses of Davenport, Des Moines, and Sioux City constitute the Province of Dubuque.*

Any bishop in a province is invited to submit names of priests whom they believe would do well to serve as a bishop. ... Together the bishops of the province discuss the nominated priests and take a vote to decide which names should be recommended. This list then is submitted to the country's apostolic nuncio, the pope's personal representative in a country and a pivotal player in the process of selecting bishops there. The current apostolic nuncio in the United States is French-born Cardinal-designate Christophe Pierre.

### THE RESEARCH PHASE

When deliberating on candidates for diocesan bishops, the nuncio will find out as much as possible about the diocese in question. A report is compiled by the current bishop or administrator after consultation with various officials within the diocese. ... Once the nuncio shortens his list of candidates, he seeks the input of as many as several dozen people who know the candidates in consideration. ... After the nuncio has reviewed all of this information, he composes a report of three candidates — called a "terna" — in which he notes his preferences. All this material is forwarded to the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops.

### SELECTING ARCHBISHOPS

In those cases where an archbishop is to be selected, a terna is usually composed of currently serving bishops. ...

### THE DICASTERY

When the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops — currently American-born Cardinal-designate Robert F. Prevost —

approves the dossier submitted by the nuncio, the process moves ahead to select a bishop for a given post. The prefect chooses a member of his staff to create a summary of the information submitted by the nuncio, which in turn is submitted to the entire dicastery — staffed by bishops and cardinals from around the world.

### THE TERNA

Members of the dicastery discuss the candidates and take a vote. They can either support the nuncio's recommendation, choose another priest/bishop to move to the top of the terna, or ask that another terna be composed.

### THE POPE PICKS

The process finally draws to a close when the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops meets privately with the pope. During the meeting, he presents the terna, given in a particular order with the dicastery's choice at the top. At this final stage, the pope can do one of four things: He may agree with the proposal, he may choose another candidate on the list, he may ask for a new terna to be submitted, or, more unlikely, he could choose his own candidate.

### THE NOMINEE

Within a few days, the pope's decision is rendered to the Dicastery. Once the nuncio is informed, the nominee is contacted by the nuncio and given the option to accept the appointment.

When an affirmative answer is given, the nuncio arranges with the Holy See to set a date to make an announcement of the appointment. There is usually a two- to four-week period before the public announcement. During this time, the bishop-elect is not allowed to discuss his appointment.

The entire process of nominating and appointing a bishop usually takes six months to a year from the date a diocese becomes vacated due to sudden resignation, death or transfer of the diocesan bishop.