



Diocese of Joliet
Coronavirus Update

May 27, 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons, Parish and Diocesan Staffs,

Thanks ever so much for the prompt response to the PLAN to open our Churches in Phase I and Phase II.

Word is that the committees are being formed and each parish is on its way to submit plans for certification. These are to be submitted to:

Chris Nye:	reopen@dioceseofjoliet.org	(815) 221-6189
	cnye@dioceseofjoliet.org	(815) 221-6194
Alex Rechenmacher:	arechenmacher@dioceseofjoliet.org	(815) 221-6180

These two gentlemen are serving as the Coordinators of the Re-opening of our Churches.

Those parishes who receive certification for Phase TWO will be able to open upon notification from the State of Illinois. Those who have not received certification will have to wait to open until certification is granted. I encourage you to consider achieving certification for Phase TWO as expeditiously as possible.

We do not anticipate our Churches to be open on Pentecost but hopefully soon thereafter. Caution is important. It has been reported that some Churches in the Archdiocese of Houston had to be closed because of health outcomes. We, here in the Diocese of Joliet want to avoid this.

Over the weekend, the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus marked its pews for safe distancing. It stirred excitement for me during the daily live-stream Masses of once again seeing the pews accommodating live participation in the Eucharist.

In the State of Illinois, the dioceses are beginning to lay plans for the re-opening of our schools this fall. We definitely desire to open the schools for the educational benefit as well as for those who come from situations where technology is not available.

Renewed thanks to all for your leadership and ministry to your parish communities. It has brought comfort and hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Handwritten signature of Richard E. Pates in black ink, preceded by a plus sign.

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet

cc: Chris Nye
Alex Rechenmacher