



**Diocese of Joliet
Coronavirus Update
June 9, 2020**

My brother priests, deacons and volunteers,

Heartfelt congratulations to all on the successful re-opening of our parishes this past weekend.

I admit to great pride for the respect and pastoral concern for your parishioners as reflected in your attention to their safety and health as you prepared the parishes for this moment. Thank you for all that you did and continue to do.

Among the people that I spoke to in the last few days, a number of them informed me that they were on the cautious side, and were waiting to see how all unfolded.

As we gain more experience with the Churches being open, we will begin to plan for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Numerous individuals have earned heartfelt thanks for their remarkable personal dedication to the activity of re-opening. I cite especially Chris Nye and Neil Harris of the Diocesan Staff. They exemplified capable organization and generous service. Heartfelt thanks are also due to the hundreds of volunteers at the parishes who made this transition happen.

I assure you of my prayers and very best wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet