



April 27, 2020

My brother priests and deacons,

We will soon begin another month of 'stay at home', as declared by Governor Pritzker, to continue the program to limit the effects of the Coronavirus. Thus, in light of this, our parishes scheduled to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during May will be postponed until a later date.

Given my availability for the pastoral care of the Confirmandi, and their families, I ask that we work together to establish the dates for the Confirmations once the Governor provides guidelines for larger services. The diocese will work closely with you to insure a smooth transition.

Whenever the date for beginning these gatherings is given, the Office of Divine Worship will email all the pastors of the parishes which postponed the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation during March, April and May. The email will include a form to complete which will be similar to the form now in use. The Office will work with me and my calendar to make it possible for my presence (or that of another Bishop or Abbot) at these parishes. Your patience is valued as we work through this process. Especially do we want to accommodate the Confirmandi and their families.

I am ever so grateful to you for all that you are doing during this "unprecedented" time in our lives. The refreshing dimension is that the focus emerging is the priority of our pastoral service.

Should you have any questions about your parish Confirmation please contact the Office of Divine Worship.

Renewing my gratitude and with kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet