

**INSTALLATION OF THE
MOST REVEREND RONALD A. HICKS
AS THE SIXTH BISHOP OF JOLIET
CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 AT 10:00 AM**

Your Eminence Cardinal Cupich, Your Excellency Bishop Emeritus Conlon, Your Excellency Bishop-Designate Hicks, My Brother Archbishops and Bishops, Dear Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Joliet, Dear Friends:

I am truly pleased to be with you today, in this Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, as Bishop Ronald Hicks is installed as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Joliet. For more than five years he has distinguished himself as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago and for these past two years as a bishop, working in close collaboration with His Eminence Cardinal Blase Cupich, the Metropolitan Archbishop of this Province.

Today is the Feast of the Archangels. Pope Francis has said that **“they are before the face of God; they are our companions because they have the same vocation in the mystery of salvation: to carry out the mystery of salvation. They adore God; they glorify God; they serve God.”**

The Holy Father continued: **“Michael defends us in battle; each person knows the struggle in his own daily life. ... Gabriel gives us the good news of salvation that Jesus is with us, that He saves us, and that He gives us hope. Raphael takes us by the hand and walks with us; he helps us on the journey so that we do not take the wrong step, the wrong road. He guides along the right path just as he once served as the travelling companion of Tobias.”** (Homily, 29 September 2017)

Your Excellency, as Chief Shepherd, you must defend your people – from the unborn child to the migrant to the elderly – from the wolves that seek to devour them. You must be a bearer of the Good News of Salvation, namely that the Crucified and Risen Lord is near to His People; and finally, you must accompany the Holy People of God along their pilgrim way.

Cardinal Cupich can be the “Archbishop” but you must be the “Archangel”, defending, encouraging, and accompanying your people. As you begin your episcopal ministry here in Joliet, we entrust you to the protection of the Holy Archangels and to Saint Raymond Nonnatus.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to His Excellency Bishop Daniel Conlon for his service to the Diocese of Joliet from 2011 to 2020 and his previous service as Bishop of Steubenville.

And now, with great joy, I will read for you a translation of the Apostolic Letter of Appointment.