



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

www.crookston.org

P.O. Box 610 | Crookston, Minnesota | 56716
T: (218) 281-4533 | F: (218) 281-3328

April 13, 2021

My Friends of the Diocese of Crookston,

On April 13th it was announced that at the request of the Holy Father, Bishop Michael Hoepfner submitted his resignation as Bishop of Crookston effective that date. Simultaneously it was announced that I was appointed to serve as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese until a new Bishop is installed.

I wish to express the respect that is owed to Bishop Hoepfner at this time. He cooperated and made his position known with the investigation that was undertaken regarding concerns dealing with the process of clerical sexual abuse and now that a conclusion has been reached, he has cooperated with the determination.

Gratitude is also in order to Bishop Hoepfner for his thirteen plus years of generous service to the Diocese of Crookston. For those who desire to communicate with Bishop Hoepfner are welcome to do so through the Diocesan Chancery: Bishop Michael Hoepfner, 1200 Memorial Drive, Crookston, MN 56716, or email mjhoepfner@crookston.org

This moment affords all of us in the diocese to turn our attention once more to the mission that has been entrusted to us to make Jesus Christ known and loved in our time.

As we re-open our Churches more and more, in accord with applicable guidelines, it is the calling of each of us to extend a warm welcome to all of those who are re-joining us in person and even expanding that welcome to those whom we would be delighted to join us anew. The post-Easter readings speak of the growing numbers of believers. Moreover, the early baptized Christians cherished their participation in the great gift of the Eucharist. In this celebration they discerned the meaning of life.

It will be an honor for me to accompany you in the months ahead. I look forward to visiting parishes, schools & institutions. In the meanwhile, please feel free to contact me through the usual channels of diocesan communications.

My prayers and very best wishes are with all in the Easter season.

Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator of Crookston