

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.  
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DIOCESE OF PEORIA



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To the Reverend Fathers, deacons, religious, and lay persons of the Diocese of Peoria:

There is great liberty in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but the essential ties of community also oblige us as a Catholic Diocese to selflessly strive for harmony, fidelity, and peace. Law has always been necessary if *koinonia* is to be real and love is to be more than a mere sentiment. In particular, I address my brother priests of this presbyterate in communion with the Universal Church: We have publically committed ourselves by the most solemn vows of our ordination to work together as a body in the exercise of our ministry. Jesus is the Eternal Lord and High Priest of his Church and all of us called to Holy Orders are only his servants.

Since the legislation of Synod VII was first enacted in 1984 after the new Code of Canon Law, many statutes have been changed, eliminated, and added. It therefore seems both timely and appropriate to now bring together in a new edition all current Diocesan Statutes. This document has been prepared after wide consultation within our Diocese and also with the formal advice of the Presbyteral Council. The format is intentionally designed to accommodate future changes and the eventual addition of other Diocesan policies, and council and committee by-laws. The material in these documents will be posted on the diocesan website to make this material readily available.

**Therefore, in accord with canon 391, I decree these revised Diocesan Statutes to be particular law for the Diocese of Peoria, with all previous Diocesan Statutes being abrogated.**

May our most blessed and glorious patroness, Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, pray with us and for us as we work together for the Kingdom of her Son, and may Almighty God bless us all in his service.

Given at the Chancery this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009, the feast of St. Joseph,

Attest:

✠ Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
Diocese of Peoria

Rev. Msgr. Paul Showalter, P.A.  
Vicar General