

## NEWS RELEASE

Catholic Diocese of Peoria

May 11, 2020

*For Immediate Release*

### ***Pope Francis Appoints the Reverend Louis Tylka as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria***

PEORIA, IL: Today the Vatican announced that His Holiness, Pope Francis, has appointed the Reverend Louis Tylka, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, as the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria.

Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka, 49, is currently Pastor of St. Julie Billiart in Tinley Park, Illinois. He has a well-deserved reputation as being a very popular pastor in the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is known as a man of holiness and prayer, generous in service, who knows how to encourage the talents of others in collaborative ministry. The Diocese of Peoria will be enormously blessed by the service and leadership of this gifted and friendly pastor.

Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka has served as Pastoral Associate at St. Michael Parish, Orland Park (1996-2003) and at Ss. Faith, Hope and Charity, Winnetka (2003-2004). He served as Pastor of Mater Christi and the Shrine of Mary, Mother of Mothers, North Riverside (2004-2014). Additionally Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka has served on the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago – serving as Chair of the Council from 2015 to present.

He is a native of Harvey, Illinois, born on May 26, 1970, and is the youngest of six children of Louis and the late Norma Tylka. He has five older sisters: Linda Tylka, Brenda Landau (Matthew), Therese Dunning (Steve), Patricia Arvia (James), and Mary Lou Bryant (Gordon). His family settled in Hazel Crest, Illinois and were parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Homewood.

Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka attended St. Joseph Grammar School, Class of 1984, and Marian Catholic High School, Class of 1988. After a year of studies at Purdue University, he transferred to Niles College Seminary of Loyola University, graduating in 1992. His seminary formation took place at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary and he was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ for the Archdiocese of Chicago by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin on May 18, 1996.

Bishop Jenky issued the following statement on the occasion of the Vatican's announcement:

“I know that I speak for all the priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria who join with me in giving heartfelt thanks to Almighty God and to our Holy Father Pope Francis for sending us the Most Reverend Louis Tylka as Coadjutor Bishop-Elect. He has worked in parishes for his entire priesthood, and I know that he will bring enormous talent, zeal, and a warm personality to the service of

God and neighbor here in Central Illinois. I have assured Bishop Tylka that he can expect an enthusiastic welcome in our Local Church, and that we look forward to his pastoral ministry and leadership. Upon my retirement, I will be happy to know that he will become the 9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Peoria.

More than a year ago, I began to experience some growing mobility problems due to arthritis and spinal issues. Through the Papal Nuncio, I therefore petitioned our Holy Father Pope Francis to appoint a Coadjutor Bishop to help me in the administration of our Diocese, which covers 26 counties in Central Illinois. I am extremely grateful to the Pope for granting my request and sending us this good shepherd.”

Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka will serve as the Coadjutor Bishop for the Diocese of Peoria. A coadjutor bishop is an assistant bishop with the right of succession as the next ordinary or diocesan bishop. Bishop Jenky will continue to direct the Diocese of Peoria until his retirement. When his retirement is accepted, the coadjutor bishop automatically becomes the next Bishop of Peoria. Bishops are required at age 75 to submit their resignation to the Pope. Bishop Jenky turns 75 in March 2022. Upon the retirement of Most Reverend Daniel Jenky, Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka will succeed Bishop Jenky and will become the 9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria.

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**Given the strict quarantine now imposed upon the State of Illinois due to the corona virus, plans for Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Tylka’s Episcopal Ordination and Installation that will take place at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Peoria, Illinois may be undecided for some time.**