

**CONCLUSION**  
**Vespers Service**  
**Bishop Richard Pates**  
**May 28, 2008**

A heartfelt word of thanks is extended to my brother Bishops, especially Bishop Joseph Charron, to all of our visitors who joined us this evening and of course to my new friends and fellow pilgrims from Southwest Iowa.

I thank Father Tim Fitzgerald, Diocesan Director of Liturgy, and all his associates who planned and led us in the liturgy of Vespers, particularly the musicians. You lifted our spirits and I look forward to our praying together in the days ahead.

One individual who has played a prominent role of leadership in the planning of the events of the installation as well guiding the Diocese this past year is Monsignor Stephen Orr, Diocesan Administrator. In order to provide continuity in the upcoming period of transition, he has generously accepted my invitation to serve as Vicar General. In his inimitable and appreciated candor, he did tell me, "I will do whatever you want but, I have been doing this for 16 years – so somewhere along the line you might keep that in mind." I am grateful for all of your kindness to me, Monsignor, and for the exercise of your abundant gifts in service to the Church of Des Moines. And hopefully you will find my hearing is still adequate. I look forward to collaboration with you and all in this wonderful community.