



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Catholic Pastoral Center ♦ 1615 West Washington Street ♦ PO Box 3187 ♦ Springfield IL 62708-3187
(217) 698-8500 ♦ FAX (217) 698-0802 ♦ WEB www.dio.org

Worship and the Catechumenate
Commission for the Liturgy

E-MAIL worship@dio.org

Vacant Episcopal See – Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Naming the bishop in the Eucharistic Prayer

Although Bishop George Lucas is now the diocesan administrator and no longer the diocesan bishop, he is still mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass in the same and usual manner: “for George our bishop...” and the variants appropriate for each prayer. This continues until the rite of “Reception of the Bishop in his Cathedral Church” [commonly called Installation] in Omaha on 22 July at 2:00 p.m.

Following the departure of Bishop Lucas from the diocese, the phrase is omitted completely in Masses celebrated within the diocese. It is fitting to offer prayers for a bishop who will meet the needs of the diocese in the Prayer of the Faithful, for example, but not within the Eucharistic Prayer.

When the College of Consultors elects a diocesan administrator to shepherd the diocese during the interim, he is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer if he is a bishop but no mention is made if he is not a bishop. The latter will most likely be the case.

Once the new bishop is either ordained or installed for the diocese, then all return to the practice of including the bishop’s name in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Prayer during a Vacant Episcopal See

The *Ceremonial of Bishops* provides this at no. 1166: “When a see becomes vacant, the diocesan administrator should ask the clergy and people to offer their prayers that the pastor chosen will be one who can meet the needs of the local Church. In all churches of the diocese the Mass for the election of the pope or bishop (RM, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For The Church, 4. For the Election of a Pope or Bishop) should be celebrated at least once, except on the days listed in nos. 1-4 of the table of liturgical days” found in the *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 59.

Concerning these Masses, priests should wait for some instruction or request from Archbishop-designate Lucas or from the diocesan administrator elected to succeed him.

It would, however, be fitting to include intercessions in the Prayer of the Faithful even now. Take the usual care to rewrite these or write new ones to fit the style of the rest of the intercessions used at a given Mass. Some examples, adapted from the Mass texts cited above, are:

- That the bishop to be chosen can meet the needs of this local Church, we pray:
- That the people of the diocese pray without ceasing for a new bishop, we pray:
- That the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois remain faithful to Christ as we await a bishop, we pray:
- That a new bishop to shepherd the diocese will be an example of goodness for all people, we pray:
- For a new bishop who will fill our hearts and minds with the trust of the gospel, we pray:
- For the joy of having a bishop to shepherd this local Church, we pray:
- That our new bishop will be pleasing and acceptable to the Lord, we pray:
- For a new bishop and diocesan pastor, we pray:
- For a new bishop whose watchful care will bring the Lord’s blessing, we pray: