

18 October 2010
The Feast of Saint Luke

This morning's formal announcement that the Holy Father has accepted my resignation from my administrative responsibilities as Auxiliary Bishop (in accordance with canon 401, paragraph 1) offers the opportunity for an immediate expression of my deep gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve God's people here in southeastern Wisconsin in this fashion for these many decades. Pope Benedict XVI's kindness to me over the years has been deeply appreciated.

These years have not always been easy, but they have inevitably offered many experiences of God's loving mercy, grace and growth. To have lived this time in the empowering spirit of the Second Vatican Council on the one hand, but also to have experienced personally the profound sorrows of the Church from the effects of the abuse of our children and youth, has been a deep and painful immersion into the Lord's Paschal Mystery. Through it all, we know that our God is always and ever an almighty source of healing and new beginnings.

Our clergy continue to stand as good and faithful brothers, "partners in the work of the Gospel." Our people remain wise and generous in the presence of so much divine grace. Our parish communities are very vital. Looking back over the years in which I have been privileged to work under the leadership of Archbishops Cousins, Weakland, Dolan and now Jerome E. ListECKI, I know that I have been enormously blessed indeed!

My plan is to offer Archbishop ListECKI every bit of assistance I can during these next few months until the end of the year. Thereafter, I have many writing projects stemming from my love for the Word of God. I hope to offer weekend help out at parishes across the Archdiocese and to preside at a limited number of confirmations each spring. My continuing prayer is simply "*Marana Tha* / Come Lord Jesus" into every aspect of the Church's mission and life so that God may be glorified and the world truly transformed by God's healing grace! Thank you for the opportunity to serve! I am deeply grateful.

+ Bishop Richard J. Sklba