



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Rockford

555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300
Fax (815) 399-4769

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Men do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.” **Matthew 5:14-16**

The Apostles took the word of God to the people by going out among them and teaching. Then the word was written down so that it would be forever documented and spread forth. Today, there are many ways to show what the light of Christ has done for us and how integral our faith is to every single aspect of our everyday life.

Spreading the gospel is no longer limited to preaching in a church or reading the Bible. The gospel has gone from the pulpit to television, radio, and out of this world then back again thanks to satellite broadcasting.

Now we have the advent of social media and hand held technologies. These too are tools to show our light of faith to the world. In order to incorporate the use of these technologies and social media channels into our lives of faith, we must also use the original light of Christ and the teachings of our faith as a guide. We must use them in a Christ-like manner with the intention of giving praise and glory to the one making it all possible.

Our diocese is providing the enclosed *Code and Guidelines for the Pastoral Use of Technology and Social Media* to assist people of all ages in all our parishes, schools, offices and organizations to be responsible and effective users of these media on behalf of the Church and of themselves as faithful Catholics. The Code and Guidelines are approved for use in this diocese *ad experimentum* for a period of two years beginning January 1, 2011. Please read and adhere to this code and use the accompanying guidelines in your promotion of the Catholic faith, Church and its ministries through technology and social media.

With thanks for your cooperation and every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Rockford