

Contact:

Penny Wiegert

Director of Communication
pwiegert@rockforddiocese.org
Phone: (815) 399-4300
Fax: (815)399-6225

555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, IL 61125
www.rockforddiocese.org

DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Father Michael J.K. Fuller Named Head of USCCB Doctrine Secretariat

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Father Michael J.K. Fuller, has been named executive director of the Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The appointment was made by Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, USCCB General Secretary, and is effective August 8.

"I congratulate Father Fuller on the news today of his appointment to the staff of the USCCB. Coming from the presbyterate of the Diocese of Rockford, Father Fuller is an outstanding priest who combines great theological training and experience with a profound love for the Church. I am confident that he will be an outstanding contributor to the theological work of the bishops of the United States," said Bishop of Rockford David J. Malloy.

Father Fuller has been associate professor and chair of the Department of Spiritual Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary since 2011. He has also been editor of the Chicago Studies Theological Journal since 2012, and since 2002, has served as spiritual director and instructor for the Diaconate Formation Program of the Diocese of Rockford and as instructor for the Diaconate Formation Program of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Prior to that, Father Fuller served as instructor, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Christian Life, from 2002 to 2011, at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He taught at the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska from 2004 to 2008; and was instructor in Health Care Ethics at St. Anthony School of Nursing from 1998 to 2000. He also served as parochial vicar of St. Bridget Parish in Loves Park from 1997 to 2000.

Father Fuller holds a doctorate in sacred theology (S.T.D.) He also holds a master of divinity, a licentiate of sacred theology and a bachelor of sacred theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Rockford on his 30th birthday, May 17, 1997, by Bishop Thomas G. Doran at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford. Prior to entering seminary formation, Father Fuller spent two years in Swaziland, Africa, as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Father Fuller has written extensively in numerous scholarly publications and is the author of two books: *Daily Prayer 2008* and *The Virgin Martyrs: Hagiography and Mystagogical Interpretation*. He is also a member of the North American Patristics Association, the Catholic Theological Association of America and the National Association of Diaconate Directors.

"I am confident that Father Fuller's ministerial skills and theological background offers the Secretariat well-established expertise that will complement and strengthen the office in service to the bishops," Msgr. Bransfield said.

Father Fuller succeeds Father Peter French Ryan, a member of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, who recently concluded his term.

END