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Statement from Archbishop Jackels on Bishop-elect Zinkula

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has named Monsignor Thomas Zinkula, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport.

This is the hand of God, providing for a need, out of love for the world.

Divine Providence can be a cause for joy to some people, as it should be for the people in the Diocese of Davenport, receiving their new Bishop.

It can also be a cause for sadness to others, as it might be for us in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, saying good-bye and thank you to a priest we have experienced as a son, brother, friend, collaborator, spiritual father, and witness to Jesus.

Either way, God’s Providence is mysterious. Our response can only be “yes, Father,” receiving whatever as a good thing given by a loving Father to children he loves.

Pray for Bishop-elect Zinkula as his “yes, Father” takes him down an unexpected path. And pray that his “yes” will be a source of inspiration to us all, especially to young men who may be called by God to priesthood in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Bishop-elect Zinkula will be ordained to the episcopacy on June 22, 2017.

Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque