



Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

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Office of the Bishop

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Dear Friends,

Information technology provides all of us with an easy, instant and transparent connection to the world around us. As the use of information technology in all forms increases and continues to evolve in the daily life of the church it is important for us to recognize its powerful impact. Information technology instantly communicates our thoughts, information and work to instruct and inform, and enables us to reach out within and far beyond our local communities to share our Catholic faith and the work of the gospel in our diocese. When we understand the impact information technology has we realize that it is equally important to develop guidelines for the proper use of such systems so that inappropriate use does not interfere with the work of the church or adversely affect its members.

The *Information Technology Systems Policy* that accompanies this decree establishes a policy and general guidelines for the use of information technology systems. The policy is effective January 1, 2009, for all parishes, parish schools, diocesan sponsored schools, the diocesan curia, commissions, councils, committees, task forces, boards, advisory boards, agencies and institutions sponsored by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois (Diocese). Parishes, schools, agencies and other institutions in the Diocese may supplement this policy with local directives and best practices applicable to their particular environment that address the use of information technology systems. The policy is included in a diocesan manual of best practices and compliance with the policy will be examined during parish reviews. Future revisions and updates to this policy will be communicated as they occur.

The *Information Technology Systems Policy* is provided to be of assistance in shaping acceptable and effective use of the information technology systems that perform a vital role in conducting the varied ministries of the Church in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

With gratitude for your cooperation in this important work, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend George J. Lucas
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois