



Special Message from Bishop Dennis E. Spies April 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! As we continue celebrating the joy of the Resurrection, I have a special request for the people of our diocese on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Kankakee County.

On March 10, severe storms and tornadoes caused widespread destruction in the area, damaging homes, vehicles, Bishop McNamara Catholic School, and affecting families throughout our diocese—including those of some of our priests. Many now face a long and challenging recovery. We continue to pray for all who were injured or suffered loss.

A Special Second Collection

To offer concrete support, I am asking every parish in the Diocese of Joliet to take up a special second collection the weekend of May 2–3 or May 9-10, 2026.

How the Funds Will Be Used

Every dollar collected will directly support two urgent needs:

- Families in Need - Catholic Charities of Joliet will administer a grant process to provide financial assistance to families who have suffered significant hardship.
- Bishop McNamara Catholic School - Assistance with repairs to buildings, buses, athletic fields, and other property not covered by insurance.

Where to Send Collections

Collections should be sent to:

Diocese of Joliet
c/o Finance Office
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

All funds will be distributed responsibly to those in need. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and care for one another. May the hope of Easter strengthen us as one Body of Christ.

+ Dennis E. Spies

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Dennis E. Spies

Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet