

Good morning! I'm father Dan Juelfs. I've been the administrator of the diocese since the end of February when Bishop Peter passed away. I'm very, very happy to welcome Bishop-elect Scott Bullock, from Dubuque, Iowa, who is named to be our bishop and will be ordained on the 23rd of September. Welcome.

Thanks for the warm welcome, not only here, but all you've done to welcome me here. I appreciate it.

Bishop-elect is something I'm getting used to. It's been just 10 days since I heard from the Apostolic Nuncio that this was going to happen. I kind of like the sound of it. I'm pretty happy to be here.

I prepared a statement to speak about the details about how I feel and what's happened so I'm just going to read that now and after there will be an opportunity for some questions. Again I'm Father Scott Bullock now the Bishop-elect Bullock, from the Archdiocese of Dubuque in Iowa and now here. I'm grateful for the appointment that I received from Pope Francis that I heard about 10 days ago. Right after I got that call then I heard from the metropolitan in the region, Archbishop (Bernard) Hebda, who warmly welcomed me, and then right after that I heard from Father Juelfs welcoming me to the Diocese of Rapid City. The welcome has been gracious.

Yesterday, I was able to make a pilgrimage to the grave of your former, now deceased Bishop Peter Muhich. At the time I prayed and commended him to our blessed Mother Mary and prayed for her intercession as well asking her for help with the commission ahead.

Just a little bit about myself — I was born in 1963 in Royal Oak Michigan. My parents, Jim and Helen Bullock. My mother was a cradle Catholic. She was from the town of Pontiac, Michigan, which at the time was a big Catholic conclave. Then she met my father and he was baptized before they were married. Then they had three children. My brother, who is the oldest, Robert. He is the oldest and near my father in Michigan and my sister Christine who is out in North Carolina.

After I graduated from high school, I studied to be an engineer. An industrial engineer of all things and I worked for General Motors for a little bit producing automobiles. I moved to Iowa because I had a great love for mathematics and I decided on a graduate program at Iowa State University and quickly the Lord said something else. It's time to be a priest. Went to seminary and been a very happy priest for 33 years with a number of assignments there in Iowa including being the rector of our college seminary, Pope Pius X Seminary at Loras College for 12 years; judicial vicar, that's the Canon law guide for the diocese, I did that for 10 years; and then happily as a pastor for 13 years including where I am now St. Edward Parish in Waterloo, Iowa, and was working with our wonderful school system in Cedar Valley Catholic schools.

What I've concluded over these few last years, I've experienced an exponential growth in my own spiritual heart and life with confidence in the intercession of our blessed mother Mary. We are very comfortable praying for each other with the person to follow the Gospel of Jesus and so we Catholics have ready to call upon the saints and ask them their prayers as well and she's been a powerful intercessor for me. So, I have thus chosen to consecrate my ministry as a bishop (to the Mother) of God with confidence I call upon her now exactly perfect will to help pray for us all.

So that's my opening statement if anybody has any questions?

*Bishop-elect, what have you chosen as your episcopal motto?*

The Episcopal Motto in Latin is, *Surgite eamus*. The reason I chose it is because it was the title of a book written by St. John Paul, II, when he reflected on his own episcopal ministry. So, he's translated *Surgite eamus* into, "Rise, let us go and be on our way."

So that's a reference to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 26 verse 46 where Jesus is in the garden with his disciples and the betrayer has come. So, then Jesus with love for us all, for all the world, says, "Rise, let us go and do our sacred work."

It's a very hopeful suggestion that we're going with Jesus. So that's the motto I've chosen.

Beyond the spiritual life of the diocese, are there any particular areas that you want to focus on? That's a great question. I've only been bishop-elect for 10 days and my first inclination is I haven't got that far yet. I've been a pastor for a long time, so I see the needs of folks. Certainly, a great concern is going to be our youngest members of our faith and how they're being formed and how they're going to discover the faith that saves and gives us joy. So, I've a particular concern for younger members. I'm really anxious to hear what's happening here already and I have confidence that the Holy Spirit is moved and is moving right now and so I'll be listening to hear what's already been happening and want to continue that good work that's already underway.

*(Question asked off camera)* So the question was that I've had this experience of the last few years of an increased devotion to and intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and I would absolutely say it's been the Holy Spirit and particularly the spirit moving through our younger base. They've really encouraged me and been patient with me but I see their passion and the Holy Spirit turned that on to me as well. So I definitely attribute them as well, my friends in Dubuque.

It's been quite a day you can all imagine. I'm hearing from all the people I love in Dubuque and in Iowa. They love me. I love them and so very touching. It's a joyful time. It's a mixed experience because we're going to be more distant now, but we're always connected in the Lord. These young guys will help me find that you know.

*How does the size of our diocese compare to what you're used to?*

You mean geographically or the number of people.

*Both.*

I'm pretty sure your diocese is larger geographically than most other dioceses. In Iowa, as you might know, the state is bordered by two rivers. The Missouri River you're very familiar with that one here, and the Mississippi is on the east. Those would have been routes for missionaries to come so on rivers out in Iowa are where the big numbers of Catholics are traditionally and even now. So the Archdiocese of Dubuque, where I'm from is northeastern Iowa and that's the largest number of Catholics in the state. The count right now is about 180,000 Catholics in that northeastern region. I've seen from your statistics that your about 20-25,000 Catholics, so much

smaller. That's exciting for me. I plan to get to know everybody before this is over with and that was impossible in Iowa. So much smaller geographically. Maybe a three hour drive across the diocese and I know not here.

*(The question was in regards to the USCCB bio that says he graduated from the University of Delaware in 1981)* That was an error. I went to high school out there in Maryland and Delaware and then my first year of college was at Delaware. That was the first time I'd stepped in a college classroom, and then I finished my bachelor's degree in engineering up in Michigan. So just one bachelor's degree in engineering. Fear not.

You'll also see in the bio that I have a great love for literature. I like to say when I turned 50, I finally studied something there I really wanted to study. I love religion and theology of course but I've always been an avid reader, so I completed a master's degree in literature at the age of 52 which was tremendous. I really admire great writing and hopefully I can speak that way sometimes when I preach and write.

Well, once again it's a joy to be here so thank you for your presence. Those who might be live streaming, it's good to talk to you.

Let's pray: in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord God, we give you thanks for the ability to serve in your Church, and particularly Lord, we call now upon the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and ask that her prayers might lead us to the heart of your Son Jesus, and that all we do here in Rapid City before your glory and the good of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God bless you.