



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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### STATEMENT

**DATE:** March 4, 2020

**RE:** Announcement regarding Sister Mary Alice Piil, C.S.J.

**FROM:** Office of Communications

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Sister Mary Alice Piil, C.S.J., the Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, has asked us to release the following announcement on her behalf:

“I have decided to step down from my position as Director of the Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre effective June 30, 2020.



“When, as a 17-year-old, I left my family in Rosedale to join the Sisters of St. Joseph, I never imaged how exciting and challenging my life would become. As I now begin to make preparations for the next phase of this journey, I look back on the many wonderful gifts of the ministry I was privileged to share with so many and I look forward to embracing some new challenges!

“My tenure with the Diocese of Rockville Centre began in 1984 when Bishop McGann (under the influence of his dear sister, Sister John Raymond, CSJ) invited me to join the faculty at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception. What a wonderful opportunity for me to share in the life of men preparing for the priesthood, of deacons and lay women and men. Those were exciting years for the Church of Rockville Centre as well as the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Vincentian Community. We grew together as we witnessed the reception of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council on this 120-mile-long island which we call home.

“In 2003, Bishop Murphy asked me to consider the further development of our diaconate program. After months of collaboration with a dedicated committee, Bishop Murphy approved an entirely new formation program which was able to offer the deacon candidates an MA in Pastoral Studies.

“My first love has always been catechesis. Some fourteen years ago, Bishop Murphy, in response to St. John Paul II’s challenge to a new evangelization for a new millennium, decided to merge the Office of Laity & Family with the Office of Catechesis. I was ready and willing to take on a new challenge and to work toward new approaches for a catechetical ministry which was comprehensive of a “womb to tomb” approach. The new Office of Faith



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Formation started in July of 2006. These years of ministry to so many of the parishes, either indirectly through workshops or through diocesan programs, have been by far the most rewarding of my years of ministry in the Diocese. Thanks to the ongoing support of my CSJ congregation I have had the privilege of sharing in the lives of literally thousands of you. Who could ask for more!

“It is time for me to pass on the torch to another yet to be known. As I move into a ‘future filled with hope’ I look to follow in the model set by Bishop Murphy. I am not retiring from ministry in the Diocese; rather, I am leaving behind the challenges of administration to do what I love best. I hope to see many of you at a workshop now and then. Or, perhaps at a woman’s gathering.

“I am grateful to my CSJ community that I can move on to a more leisurely pace of living as I contemplate the gift of life that is mine as a religious woman so deeply in love with the Church as lived out in the Diocese of Rockville Centre!”

**Bishop John Barres stated:** “Recently, Sr. Mary Alice Pill, C.S.J., came to see me to tell me that she had decided to step down from her positions as the Director of the Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre as well as from her hosting duties on the Catholic Faith Network. For all those who have benefited from Sr. Mary Alice’s considerable gifts and talents over the years, you know how many lives she has touched.

“I am glad to hear that Sr. Mary Alice is not retiring but will continue to be active in the various ways the Lord will call her to serve Him in the future.

“In her career, Sr. Mary Alice has worked with four different Diocesan Bishops of Rockville Centre. It falls to me, on behalf of my three predecessors and all the faithful of the Diocese, to thank her for her service to the Lord, to her community, and to all of us. Her dedication and zeal to forming in Faith seminarians, deacons and the lay faithful, have enriched both our Diocese and the wider Church.

“In our conversation the other day, Sr. Mary Alice spoke to me about how grateful she was for the many people whom God placed in her life at different stages of her journey. And so, we are grateful to her for the role she has played in the lives of so many, over so many years. Thank you, Sr. Mary Alice Pill.”