

## **Most Rev. Louis Tylka, Bishop of Peoria**

### **Why is it important to maintain Catholic healthcare?**

Catholic Health Care is a very important element of the church's mission. It is providing care for everyone with the greatest love and care. It is maintaining the respect for the human person in all stages of life from conception to natural death. It is based upon the principles of the sacredness of every human life. (:22)

### **What is a Diocesan Public Juridic Person?**

The Diocesan Public Juridic Person is an entity that is created to provide the sponsorship of the apostles of the church. In many ways we deal with both the church's law and we deal with civil law and in the church's law there always has to be some body, some religious community or the Diocese that sponsors the Ministry that is taking place. So, in simplest terms the Public Juridic Person is the entity that is created so that there is clear understanding of where this Ministry is coming from, who is sponsoring it ultimately. (:43)

### **As Bishop, what is your role?**

My role as Bishop in the Diocesan Public Juridic Person is to serve as what I like to call the backstop. The public Juridic Person becomes the sponsor of OSF HealthCare. It's not going to change the day-to-day operations of the hospital system. The Sisters are still going to be running the system as the board of the Public Juridic Person. My job is simply to guarantee - to be the backstop - that if or when others needed to come and be put on the Board in order to maintain the Mission and Ministry of OSF HealthCare, I would be the one responsible for making sure that that continues. (:41)

### **The goal of the Diocesan PJP is to preserve the Ministry of the Sisters**

This whole endeavor of looking at Diocesan Public Juridic Person comes from my desire as the Bishop to continue to work closely with the Sisters to maintain the wonderful Ministry that they have created over the last 147 years and to ensure that this Mission of Catholic health care that is so important across North Central Illinois and in several other areas that the Sisters have hospitals, that it continues in that same charism that they have imbued which is to give people the greatest care with the greatest love. So this is really a new opportunity for us to just guarantee that their legacy and the legacy of Jesus's Ministry of healing others continues in the way that you know it. (:47)