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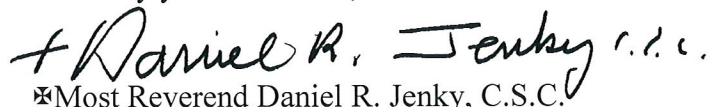
Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Peoria:

It is with great joy that I share with you an exciting and historic event in the Diocese of Peoria. Under the direction of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, a first class relic of Blessed John Paul II will be brought to our diocese. This relic is a vial of his blood encased in a gold gospel book. This relic is the official relic used in advancing his cause for canonization. We are grateful that Mother Adela, Superior of the Pierced Heart Sisters, has not only graciously allowed her sisters to work in our diocese but also has included the diocese in this historic event. It is due to their dedication to Blessed John Paul II and connection to his cause that this event is possible. Peoria is one of only three dioceses to receive his relic; and, the only diocese outside of the state of Florida.

Please join me for public veneration of this relic on Monday, November 18, 2013, 7:15p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. We will celebrate Holy Mass using the Votive Mass of Blessed John Paul II. Immediately after Mass there will be the opportunity for private veneration. Holy cards with Blessed John Paul II's image will be given out to be touched to the relic. I encourage you to attend this Mass.

I know that all of us have fond memories of Blessed John Paul II and the many great things he did for the Church. Our celebration with his relic not only honors the memory of this great man, but also, prepares our local church to celebrate his future canonization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


✠Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA