



## **Most Reverend Raymond J. Boland**

**Bishop Emeritus  
Diocese Kansas City ~ St. Joseph**

### **Appointment of Msgr Robert Finn As Coadjutor Bishop**

March 9, 2004

We are all aware that the gigantic arch which towers over the Mississippi River on the edge of St. Louis commemorates that city as the “Gateway to the West.”

Three centuries of history have validated that honor.

In like fashion many leaders of our local Church have come through that city, named after a canonized French King. All have been a great blessing to the Catholic Church in this north-western segment of Missouri .

Among them were our two pioneer priests, Fr. Bernard Donnelly here in Kansas City , and Fr. Thomas Scanlan in St. Joseph. Added to these stalwarts of the faith, no less than four of my predecessor bishops came to us the same way: Bishops Hogan, Gilfallen, Cody and Helmsing.

Within this context I am delighted to share with you the good news that our Holy Father has appointed another son of St. Louis to be the Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term “Coadjutor Bishop,” let me explain that it is the title given to a bishop assigned to assist the incumbent bishop along with the right of succession. Well over a year ago I asked the Holy See to consider the appointment of a Coadjutor Bishop for our diocese for a number of reasons.

I wasn't getting any younger: I'm now in my 73<sup>rd</sup> year. You have already documented the fact that I am a cancer survivor and there are some nagging disabilities which impact on my energy levels. However, the main reason I requested a Coadjutor is because I am a firm believer that it is the best way to promote good governance. There are many wonderful things happening in our diocese: In sports parlance, we have a certain momentum, and a seamless transition of

leadership enables the momentum to continue without missing a heartbeat. Our people deserve such continuity.

So, after that explanatory preface, I am happy to introduce to you, Monsignor Robert William Finn, currently the editor of the St. Louis Review, as our soon-to-be Coadjutor Bishop, and in God's good time, when I retire or the Lord calls me home, whichever comes first, the next Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Monsignor, you are more than welcome to northwest Missouri, and I am going to make one prediction – you're going to be very happy here.