



## REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

See below today's update, and please be assured I will keep you informed as we continue to navigate this challenging time.

### **Important Update on DC and MD Mandates**

The State of Maryland issued a new Executive Order today that non-essential businesses must close at 5 pm until further notice. Our Public Policy team reviewed all current state, district and federal directives.

Our current level of operations are still in line with the directives of Maryland and the District, which are Maryland's legal mandate continues to be limiting gatherings up to 10 persons and the District of Columbia's legal mandate remains at up to 50 people, with the exception being gatherings with people 60 years or older to be limited to 10 persons. Any gathering must adhere to the social distancing requirement. At the pastor's discretion, you can remain open for private prayer and confession. Be sure to follow all previously issued precautions.

At this time, the new Executive Order for the State of Maryland does allow parish offices to remain open but must adhere to the 10 persons limit and to appropriate social distancing. When possible, depending on a person's job function, employees working from home is strongly encouraged. It is up to the pastor's discretion if they want to close their parish office.

We will continue monitoring the directives as they are issued and update you on any impact.

### **Pastoral Resources**

In order to help our parishioners continue to pray at home as a Domestic Church, we are sharing the following resources linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish, that we ask for you to share with your parishioners. This "At Home Prayer Service" walks individuals, roommates, and families step by step through a simple prayer service to be used during this time of social distancing. Alternatively, this resource could also be used for parish groups to pray together through video conference or phone.

### **Pastoral Care of the Sick**

A reminder in pastoral care of the sick, please make sure to follow all protocols recommended by health professionals. In the event that you are asked to anoint someone with the coronavirus, the Code of Canon Law permits the use of an

instrument (CIC 1000 §2), for example, a cotton swab. In such case, the used instrument should not come in contact again with the oil stock and should be disposed of in a reverent manner. In case of necessity, a single anointing on the forehead or on any other part of the body with the entire sacramental form (“Through this holy anointing... May the Lord who frees you from sin...”) suffices (CIC 1000 §1; PCS, 23). For any further clarification, please contact Rev. Martino Choi, Director of the Office of Worship, at [choim@adw.org](mailto:choim@adw.org) or 301/853-4595.

## **FORMED.org Online Catholic Resource Platform**

In an effort to assist Catholics everywhere, FORMED has made immediate access to their Catholic movies, faith formation videos, audio talks, and great children’s videos free for the next 40 days. See the link [here](#).

As you [share](#) with your community that FORMED has opportunities for learning, prayer and entertainment; it is helpful to give some guidance. For example, you may want to suggest the Wild Goose series (focused on relationship with the Holy Spirit). Invite all parishioners to watch the first video, then offer your reflection/comments as their pastor. This is a great way to engage as community. Repeat process every few days.

For children, having a family movie night is a good option. The Brother Francis series is great for youngest children (under 8), The Witness Trilogy (episode 1) is a good Lenten option for older students. Be sure to encourage parents to watch and discuss together with their children.

## **Use of MDLIVE – access to health care remotely**

Use of **MDLIVE** allows for secure access to health care from the convenience of your phone, computer or tablet. MD Live also provides behavioral health assistance through online counseling sessions. It is highly recommended that all employees who have health insurance through the Archdiocese of Washington register for MD Live now. That way your account will be ready to go if you need to contact a doctor. This is an excellent resource if you have a non-emergency medical need and are concerned about going to your doctor’s office.

## **Archdiocesan Employees Frequently Asked Questions**

Linked [here](#) is an FAQ document for employees prepared by the Office of Human Resources. Should you or your employees have questions or need assistance please contact [ArchdioceseHR@adw](mailto:ArchdioceseHR@adw) for assistance. Please note especially the information on MDLIVE.

## **Elderly Priests in Need of Groceries**

If you are aware of any elderly priests who need groceries delivered to them, our seminarians can help. Please contact Fr. Carter Griffin at [griffinc@adw.org](mailto:griffinc@adw.org) for assistance.

## **Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website**

The archdiocesan website in response to the coronavirus is updated regularly with information, in English and Spanish, for you and the faithful. I encourage you to continue to share the **website**, which includes a **link** to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers .

With deep appreciation for your priestly ministry, I am  
Sincerely in Christ,  
Reverend Daniel B. Carson  
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia