



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see below today's update. As we continue to navigate this challenging time, I will keep you informed.

Hosting Small Groups Online Resources

During this time, we have moved many of our meetings to online platforms. Linked [here](#) in English, and linked [here](#) in Spanish are resources on how to host small groups online. The resources walk you through the steps of setting up a virtual community and provide tips on ensuring that it is an interactive, faith filled experience.

Confirmations

As you know, April and May are usually the busiest Confirmation months of the year. The local government responses are constantly evolving, and we simply do not know when large gatherings (and therefore Masses) may resume. We realize that this uncertainty (especially of whether a currently scheduled Confirmation Mass may or may not occur) causes concern for many of you and your parishioners. Thus, it may be easier for your planning purposes simply to postpone your Confirmation Mass if it is currently scheduled between now to the end of May, instead of waiting for constant updates from the Archdiocese or the local governments. In this case, we ask you to inform Deacon John Class in the Office of Worship at ClassJ@adw.org of your decision, and he will coordinate rescheduling once public Masses resume. Once we resume public Masses, Archbishop Gregory is willing to grant permission to pastors to do Confirmation at their parish if a bishop is unable to do so because of the volume of Confirmations we expect needing to take place. In these instances, we will also provide scripts for the pastor's use. We appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this challenging time.

Assistance at Masses

Deacons may assist at the upcoming parish Triduum services but this should be limited to need. For example, if only one priest is in a parish, a deacon could assist the priest. If so, previously issued precautions and social distancing must be observed. In addition, deacons that are vulnerable due to age or underlying health conditions should consider avoiding assisting.

Note Concerning Volunteers

I realize that in many parishes, essential functions are performed by volunteers. For example, the offertory collection is counted by volunteers or the parish secretary or

maintenance staff may be a volunteer. In those cases, pastors should communicate with their volunteers to ensure that they have access to the parish office and other resources necessary to perform their work to sustain parish operations. Regarding the offertory count and other cash handling at this time, please see linked [here](#) guidance about the modifications from standard procedures that can be authorized by the pastor.

Financial Assistance and Staffing Decisions – Contacts

As you are considering the financial assistance you may need and personnel decisions you may need to make, please feel free to reach out to Adrienne Willich (Finance) at willicha@adw.org and Nanette Lowe (Human Resources) at lowen@adw.org as they can help walk you through the process and answer questions.

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 adw.org/coronavirus/ which includes a [link](#) to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers.

As ever, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know. Please be assured of my prayers for you.

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