



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

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

Human Resources and Staffing

Pastors are reminded that as you begin to make staffing adjustments (reduction of hours, furloughs, salary reductions), you should review the plan with the Office of Human Resources before implementing. Nanette Lowe (lowen@adw.org) and the Human Resources team are available to assist you through these difficult decisions.

Staff Working at Parishes

We have received calls over the past few days in reference to essential employees that are still allowed to work at a location and if the employee needs a letter. The Office of General Counsel has reviewed all recent local jurisdictional mandates and advises that employees are not required to have a letter. If you feel a letter is necessary in a certain situation, the Moderator's office can assist you with guidance for the content of any letters you believe should be issued. Please contact me at carsond@adw.org or Terry Farrell at farrellt@adw.org.

Grants and Loans Information

We have been receiving numerous communications regarding availability of certain grants and loans under recently-issued legislation including:

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act
- Federal Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- Paycheck Protection Program
- Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Grants/Loans (EIDL)
- Employee Retention Credit Program
- Treasury Department Emergency Relief Loans for Mid-Sized Businesses
- Emergency Unemployment Relief for Non-Profits
- Appropriations for local school systems

State and Local Relief Programs

- DC Emergency Paid Leave bill
- DC Microgrant Program
- Maryland Leave and Unemployment Insurance legislation
- Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund
- Maryland COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund

We are closely analyzing these issues and, as it currently appears, while the Archdiocese of Washington may be entitled to apply for certain loans; none of our individual parishes or schools are currently eligible for the grants and loans enacted in the various state and federal legislation. We understand there are on-going discussions and lobbying efforts at this time about these issues in the hopes of expanding the availability of certain categories of relief. We are also monitoring how our schools may benefit from the increased federal appropriations to state and local educational agencies for education. All grant and loan applications, including those contemplated by a parish or school, will have to be coordinated through and approved by the Moderator of the Curia. We will continue to keep you promptly apprised about these matters.

Update on MD and DC Mandates

Some of you have inquired if we can still offer, at the pastor's discretion, private prayer and Confessions as noted in my update on Monday. Yes, both in the State of Maryland and District of Columbia they allow for travel to a place of worship and we may continue what we have been offering if we maintain these precautions as previously noted:

- monitor and take adequate precautions to ensure that no more than 10 people gather inside the church at any given time;
- post a reminder for visitors to abide by the government's social distancing guidelines and other health precautions while visiting the church; and
- maintain appropriate safety and sanitary measures at the parish (making hand sanitizer available, regularly cleaning and sanitizing door handles, common areas, public bathrooms, etc.).

We review daily all guidance that comes out of the Governor and Mayor's offices to be sure we are in compliance with all mandates. While the District of Columbia's recent order had language specific to houses of worship, Maryland's order did not. However, we were affirmed on this past Monday that our level of operations is in compliance with both MD and DC, as noted in my update to you on that day. Today the Governor's office issued additional interpretive guidance linked [here](#) specific to houses of worship that affirms our level of operations are in compliance. We are reviewing the latest guidance and we will continue to update you on the level of services we are able to offer while remaining in compliance with all mandates.

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