



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see today's update below, and please know we shall continue to keep you informed as we move through this challenging time.

Update on Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Grants

Today, President Trump signed into law an additional \$310 billion in funding for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program. The first installment of \$350 billion funded 1.6 million forgivable loans, and we have seen reports that one million new applications are already in the pipeline at banks for the additional funding. The SBA system is expected to open on Monday for new applications from banks.

Pastors who have applied at their bank but have not received SBA approval should be in contact with their bank to confirm that a) the bank has all needed information from the parish to fully process the application, and b) the bank intends to submit the parish application to the SBA.

Pastors who have received SBA PPP loan proceeds should follow the archdiocese's guidance linked [here](#) on accounting for the loan and reinstating staff if applicable.

Please contact Adrienne Willich at willich@adw.org regarding loan accounting and Nanette Lowe at lowen@adw.org regarding reinstatement of furloughed staff.

Catholic Schools

Bill Ryan sent a letter to all school parents yesterday. Linked [here](#) is the letter to D.C. school parents, and linked [here](#) is the letter to Maryland school parents.

Marriage License Issuance Update

We wanted to inform you that in the District of Columbia, after previously offering civil marriage licenses in emergency situations only, it appears that the **Marriage Bureau** will now remotely receive and process applications in all cases. An online application is linked [here](#). A representative of the clerk's office will then contact the couple to complete the process. If the couple requires a marriage license for an emergency matter (examples given are health insurance, childbirth, immigration, etc.), they should email the clerk's office at emergencycertifiedcopies@dcsc.gov or call 202/879-1400.

In Maryland, it continues to be available only in "emergency cases" with the application likely needing to go before a judge for approval. Listed below is the contact information for the various counties.

Calvert -- call 410/535-1600, x2269

Charles -- call 301/932-3308

Prince George's -- call 301/952-3331

St. Mary's -- call 301/475-7844

For Montgomery, an application must be mailed or placed in the court drop box. You can find the application linked [here](#).

Possible Copyright Issues with Live streaming

For those of you who offer Masses or other worship services via streaming, YouTube video, podcast, or other media (Zoom, etc.), please be aware that including hymns, music or other copyrighted material may lead to liability for copyright violations. These violations may result in significant penalties. Even if your parish has a valid license to reprint or perform hymns publicly, that license does not necessarily permit broadcasting music via the internet or other digital media.

We are exploring the possibility of obtaining a group license to cover our parishes' online use of hymns and other copyrighted material. If you plan to use music or other copyrighted material as part of your online worship, either now or in the future, please contact the Office of General Counsel. Our attorneys are working on these licensing issues and are gathering information about licenses that are currently being used and would like to work together to ensure all parishes and schools have proper licensing in place. Please contact the Office of General Counsel at 301/853-4495 or email at legaladmin@adw.org.

Reopening Task Force

We have started preliminary discussions about how to prepare for what will likely be a phased reopening approach when our local District and Maryland jurisdictions begin lessening restrictions. At the direction of the Bishops of our region, our Vicars General Coronavirus task force, consisting of Baltimore, Arlington, Richmond, Wilmington, West Virginia, and Washington have begun discussions. We have been helping each other navigate and share ideas and resources since restrictions began. Now our focus is shifting towards how to coordinate collectively when reopening can begin and what a phased-in approach might entail.

At the local archdiocesan level, in addition to our current Coronavirus response task force, we are standing up a Reopening Task Force specific for this purpose. This team will dive into the detail to determine what a phased-in approach might look like depending on when and what restrictions are lifted in the District and Maryland. The team consists of leadership of Holy Cross Health, several pastors, and various key members from the Pastoral Center to cover a broad spectrum of the areas that will come into play. At this point, I just wanted to make you aware, and I will keep you posted as we move forward.

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 available at [**adw.org/coronavirus**](https://www.adw.org/coronavirus), which includes a link to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers available at [**adw.org/live-streamed-Masses-and-prayers/**](https://www.adw.org/live-streamed-Masses-and-prayers/).

Additionally, please share with your communities that during the coronavirus shutdown, the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers of the Archdiocese of Washington have not been printing, but these news sources are available on-line at [**cathstan.org**](https://www.cathstan.org) and [**elpreg.org**](https://www.elpreg.org) as well as being shared across social media platforms.

As ever, should you have questions or need assistance from my office or the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

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