



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see below today's update and know we shall continue to keep you informed during this challenging time.

Government Financial Assistance Updates

1. Late last night the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued new interim rules that confirm the eligibility of faith-based groups to certain programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The PPP loans are intended to cover the costs of 2 months' payroll, plus certain additional business costs, for small businesses and non-profits. With the new SBA guidance, it appears that our parishes (and their schools) should be eligible for this program. We are still reviewing the full impact of these new rules and the process for applying, but we wanted to share this good news as soon as we received it. We will be in touch by Monday with additional details. Please be reminded that the Moderator of the Curia must review and approve any loan, grant, or other relief applications (under the PPP or any other program).
2. FEMA is offering grant assistance to support non-profits with certain COVID-19 related costs. Pursuant to FEMA guidelines, our schools are eligible as critical service facilities, and our churches and day care centers are eligible as non-critical but essential service facilities. FEMA will provide assistance for at least 75% of the costs of work required to address an emergency. Lost income and budgeted employee salary are **not** covered but eligible costs may include (1) deep-cleaning and disinfecting costs; (2) schools' costs to accommodate remote learning, and (3) churches' costs to set up remote worship (possibly including enhanced IT capabilities). Eligible organizations must apply to the respective Maryland and DC emergency management agencies **by Friday, April 10**. The state will make an initial eligibility determination for our separate facilities. If approved, the state will work with us to create a project plan for assistance with eligible costs. Please see the form linked **here** that you may fill out and send back to the Office of General Counsel (**debettencourt@adw.org**) **by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7**. If you have any specific questions in completing the form, please contact Chris deBettencourt directly at 301-853-5343 or **debettencourt@adw.org**.

Archbishop Gregory One Year Anniversary

One year ago today, His Holiness Pope Francis, announced the appointment of the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory as the Archbishop of Washington, the seventh archbishop of this local Church.

I share with you these links to Catholic Standard articles commemorating this important anniversary in the life of our local Church:

<https://cathstan.org/news/local/archbishop-gregory-reflects-on-his-first-year-as-archbishop-of-washington>

<https://cathstan.org/news/local/chronology-of-archbishop-wilton-gregorys-first-year-as-archbishop-of-washington>

<https://cathstan.org/news/local/washington-archbishop-wilton-gregory-in-his-own-words>

I ask you to join me in congratulating Archbishop Gregory on this one year anniversary. His leadership and his fraternity with our priests and deacons is a blessing to us all. Let us pray for him as he continues to shepherd us and the people of God that are entrusted to our care.

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