



# REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see today's update below and be assured we will keep you informed as we continue through this challenging time.

## **Catholic Schools Office Announcement**

On April 13, 2020, William “Bill” Ryan, III, Secretary for Catholic Schools, resigned his position, effective June 30, 2020. Mr. Ryan will assume the position of Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, on July 1, 2020. Please join me in wishing Bill the best in his new position and being extremely grateful for his service to the schools and to the Archdiocese of Washington. Linked **here** is Bill's letter to Pastors and School Leaders.

## **Easter Offertory Assessment Exemption**

Archbishop Gregory has granted an offertory assessment exemption to all parishes on all offertory funds received for Easter.

## **Easter Season Pastoral Resources from the Office of Catechesis**

Archbishop Gregory recently encouraged us to find opportunities to praise God throughout the Easter season. The attached resources have been developed by the Office for Catechesis to support ongoing and active participation in the 50 days of the season, by praying a line (linked here in **English** and **Spanish**) of the Psalms each day, engaging more fully with the Sunday Gospel readings linked **here**, and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet linked **here**.

## **Saint Luke Institute Helpline for Clergy and Religious**

Please find linked **here** the press release from **Saint Luke Institute** (SLI) about a new National Helpline for Clergy and Religious.

Additionally, Saint Luke Institute is creating new weekly videos and making available, free of charge, the resources linked **here** from their extensive library to assist clergy, religious, and lay people manage the stress and anxiety related to the Covid-19 pandemic from both a mental and spiritual health perspective.

## **Wearing of Face Masks**

For Montgomery County parishes only: On April 16, the Montgomery County Council will vote on requiring face masks for every employer that Governor Hogan has allowed to continue to operate during the COVID-19 crisis. Employers will need to either provide employees with face masks or provide employees with instructions on how to make a homemade face mask. If approved, the effective date is April 16, 2020. If you don't already have masks available, please follow the instructions linked **here** for making a homemade face mask for your staff.

## **Information Regarding Marriage Licenses**

In the wake of the emergency declarations in the District of Columbia and Maryland, the issuance of civil marriage licenses, which is within the purview of the courts, was initially suspended. That has changed slightly. The relevant clerk's offices remain closed to the public, with most staff operating remotely. Thus, no in-person interaction is possible.

The District's **Marriage Bureau** reports that it will remotely issue marriage licenses and certified copies of already issued licenses, in "emergency situations only." What constitutes an emergency situation is not specified. Neither do the rules state if one must justify a claimed "emergency" reason. An on-line application is available **here**. Couples can also email **emergencycertifiedcopies@dcsc.gov** or call the clerk's office at 202-879-1400 to request a marriage license.

Marriage licenses in Maryland are also being issued in "emergency cases." There is no strict definition of "emergency," but the examples given *include* instances involving military deployment, severe health issues, or medical insurance issues involving an applicant. The application might need to go before a judge for approval.

Calvert – call 410-535-1600, ext. 2269

Charles – call 301-932-3308

Prince George's – call 301-952-3331

St. Mary's – call 301-475-7844

Montgomery – application must be mailed or placed in court drop box. Remote application Information is linked **here**.

Note that all requests to celebrate a sacramental marriage without a marriage license must be sent to the Moderator's office for review on an individual basis during this time. Any couple that has a sacramental marriage without a marriage license will need to have a civil service at the courthouse when District and

Maryland offices reopen.

### **IT Reminder**

As previously communicated, please keep IT Security in your minds. Pay special attention to suspicious emails. We are seeing an increase in spam and scams. The US Attorney General is warning us about these coronavirus scams: Individuals and businesses selling fake cures for COVID-19 online and engaging in other forms of fraud; Phishing emails from entities posing as the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other health organizations; Malicious websites and apps that appear to share Coronavirus-related information to gain and lock access to your devices until payment is received; Seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations; Medical providers obtaining patient information for COVID-19 testing and then using that information to fraudulently bill for other tests and procedures.

### **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/](https://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 gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Daniel B. Carson

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