



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide you updates. I will continue to keep you informed as we navigate this challenging time. As we enter these next days of the Triduum and Easter weekend, I will refrain from sending you an update unless there is urgent information you need to know.

Resources for Holy Week

The Archdiocesan website continues to be updated including recent updates to the special page dedicated to **Holy Week**. On this website, you will find pastoral resources for Holy Week as well as live stream information on Archbishop Gregory's Holy Week liturgies including worship aids for each liturgy. Linked **here** is a resource created to help promote the Holy Week liturgies. Also, linked **here** in English and linked **here** in Spanish is a resource on the Triduum from the Office of Catechesis.

Holy Saturday Light in the Window

On Easter, we celebrate the triumph of light over darkness through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a sign of hope and Christian unity, Archbishop Gregory invites all to join him in placing a light in the window of your home from Holy Saturday evening through Easter Sunday evening. Together, let us witness to the light of Christ in these troubling times! Please use the video linked **here** and image linked **here** to promote this initiative through your parish social media.

Guidance from the Office of Worship on the Triduum

As we prepare for the Triduum, parishes in Maryland should note that although other ministers may assist at these liturgies as necessary, only priests are to receive Communion according to the interpretive guidance on religious worship issued by the State of Maryland. The guidance specifies that "Participants may not interact physically with clergy, staff, or participants." Any concelebrating priest should use a separate chalice and paten. Since the guidance also instructs social distancing, the presence of others in the sanctuary should be kept to a minimum and the gathering limited up to 10 people. In the District of

Columbia, the guidance on social distancing and gathering size limiting up to 10 people also applies. For any specific questions, please contact Fr. Martino Choi in the Office of Worship at choim@adw.org.

Catholics across the United States are invited to pray together on Good Friday

Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will lead us as a nation in praying the **Litany of the Sacred Heart** to seek healing for all who are unwell, wisdom for those whose work is halting the spread of coronavirus, and strength for all God's children. Please join in on **Good Friday, April 10, 2020, 12 noon (eastern time)**.

- **Watch and participate online**
- Text of Litany of the Sacred Heart: **English | Spanish**

The Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See has given permission for a **plenary indulgence** for those who join Archbishop Gomez in this prayer.

Catholic Charities' Virtual Food Drive

A reminder that Catholic Charities is experiencing an extraordinary increase in requests for food assistance, both from the thousands of people they help every year and the many in our region now facing food insecurity after losing their jobs. Their Virtual Food Drive is from Thursday, April 9 through Saturday, April 11. To participate and donate please click this link: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/holy-week-virtual-drive/>. Please share this information with your parishioners in a manner you deem appropriate.

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.

Our Holy Father gave his Wednesday address today from the Apostolic Library in the Vatican inviting the faithful to find courage, strength and hope in God's infinite love in the midst of this challenging time. He ended with these words, "Through His death, He conquered death. So we too can change our lives by being close to Him in the certainty that we are not alone because the Lord loves us, He does not abandon us and He never forgets us." I pray that as we enter the Triduum and celebrate Easter, although in a very different way than we have experienced before, may it bring us the courage, strength and hope in God's infinite love as we look forward to the day when we join our faithful again in our parishes.

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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