



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 during this challenging time.

COVID-19 Virus Testing and Antibodies Testing

Maryland and the District of Columbia have both substantially increased their capacity to test for whether someone is actively infected with the coronavirus. Testing to determine if a person has produced antibodies against the virus is also available.

- In the District, pre-screening is required and persons with symptoms or with the highest risk have priority over others. Persons under the age of 65 or who do not have underlying conditions or are not critical infrastructure workers are deemed to be a non-priority. All testing is by appointment. More information and testing locations are available [here](#).
- Maryland has **announced** that appointment-free testing is available without a doctor's order at community-based testing sites for persons who suspect they may have been exposed to the virus even if they do not exhibit symptoms. In addition, pharmacists are now authorized to directly order tests and administer them. More information and testing locations are available [here](#).
- In addition to testing for an active infection, testing is available to detect the presence of COVID-19 antibodies to determine if a person has already had the virus and now shows signs of potential immunity. These may be obtained through an individual's health care provider. At least one private testing facility, **Quest Diagnostics**, also offers a COVID-19 immune response test, which people can order for themselves online.

Reminder for Those Testing Positive for the Coronavirus

As we have seen a few staff and priests test positive for the coronavirus, it is important to remember if you have any clergy or staff test positive to contact the Moderator's Office for assistance with next steps of how to respond and how to inform anyone that has been in direct or indirect contact with a person testing positive.

Use of MDLIVE – Access to Health Care Remotely

As previously communicated, MDLIVE, linked [here](#), gives you secure access to health care from the convenience of your phone, computer or tablet. MDLIVE also provides behavioral health assistance through online counseling sessions. This is

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available to the clergy and employees who have health insurance through the Archdiocese of Washington. You can go to the website and register for MDLIVE now. That way your account will be ready to go if you need to contact a doctor. This is an excellent resource if you have a non-emergency medical need and are concerned about going to your doctor's office, ER or urgent care center.

Holy Hour with Msgr. Stephen Rossetti – Tomorrow, Thursday, May 21 at 5 p.m.

A reminder that the next priest holy hour will be tomorrow, Thursday, May 21 at 5 p.m. There will be exposition, evening prayer, a short reflection on priesthood, and a final blessing for healing and protection. These times of Eucharistic Adoration have been a special grace of fraternity, mutual support, and prayer for our priests. All priests are invited!

The GOTOMEETING login information is below. Please login a few minutes early, perhaps about 4:45 p.m. so we can get all the technology functioning. For more information, contact Msgr Steve Rossetti at [**sjrossetti@gmail.com**](mailto:sjrossetti@gmail.com).

Please join the meeting via this [**link**](#) from your computer, tablet or smart phone, or you may also dial in on your phone at +1 (408) 650-3123 and using access code 997-240-437.

Note Relating to Cleaning of Historical Liturgical Objects

The Pontifical Council for Culture has released some basic guidance for the cleaning and disinfecting of different types of surfaces in church interiors and historical liturgical objects.

Please see the link [**here**](#).

Harsh chemicals can damage certain surfaces and objects. These instructions are designed to assist in avoiding damage to the delicate objects present in our churches. If you have questions about this guidance or about what types of cleaning supplies should be used on specific materials or historical objects, please contact Stephanie A.T. Jacobe, Ph.D., Director of Archives, at [**jacobes@adw.org**](mailto:jacobes@adw.org).

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**](http://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/**](http://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/). The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available online at [**cathstan.org**](http://cathstan.org) and [**elpreg.org**](http://elpreg.org).

As ever, should you have questions or need assistance from my office or 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
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

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