



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

Please see below today's update and be assured I will continue to keep you informed.

Presbyteral Conferences

Presbyteral Conference times are scheduled for tomorrow, May 5 from 10 am – 12 noon. Should you wish to meet with the archbishop by phone during this time, please be in touch with Deirdre Schmutz at schmutzd@adw.org or phone 301-853-4420 to set up an appointment.

Governor Hogan's Faith-Based Workgroup

Governor Hogan has put together 15 advisory workgroups to address major aspects of the Maryland region, including one for the faith community. I sit on the Governor's Faith-Based Workgroup, which includes 27 other faith leaders from throughout Maryland and from many denominations. The Faith-Based Workgroup started meeting last Friday and we meet throughout this week to advise how a reopening plan might work in the phased approach once restrictions start to be lessened by the State of Maryland.

There is no time line set at this point for the start of a first phase of reopening in Maryland or the District. From the workgroup, here are key milestones that need to be met in Maryland before starting to lift any restrictions: (1) Adequate PPE (185 countries are trying to obtain PPE from limited suppliers. Maryland goes through 11 million gowns per two weeks and many more million in masks); (2) Have surge capacity in ICU and acute care hospital beds (Maryland has 4,800 beds but needs 6,000 to handle potential surge after reopening. Twenty-two triage units along with opening of Laurel Hospital, Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park and the Baltimore Convention Center will get to the 6,000 beds soon.); (3) Enough testing capability; and (4) Flattening the curve (following Federal guidelines needing 14 days of decreasing deaths and hospital stays, and Maryland is not there yet. The situation in the District at this time is similar.

Marriage License Issuance Reminder

A reminder that for any priest or deacon wishing to celebrate a marriage without the proper civil license being obtained, you will need permission from the Moderator of the Curia before the wedding takes place. Please send to the Moderator the name of the couple, date of the wedding, place of the wedding, and name of the presider. In addition, all other normal permissions and dispensations for marriages need also to be obtained through Canonical Services.

While the DC and MD offices remain closed, some are receiving applications and processing licenses. The **D.C. Marriage Bureau** is receiving marriage applications remotely. An on-line application is available **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 (e.g., health insurance, childbirth, immigration, etc.), they should email the clerk's office at **emergencycertifiedcopies@dcsc.gov** or call 202/879--1400.

The closure of Maryland court offices to the public has been extended to June 5, 2020, by **order of the Maryland Court of Appeals**. The statewide court system **reports on its website** that marriage licenses there continue to be available only in "emergency cases," with the application likely needing 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 -- An application must be mailed or placed in court drop box. For more information call 240-777-9460 or go to **this link**.

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**, which includes a link to find a listing of live stream Masses and prayers available at **adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/**. The *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers are currently available online at **cathstan.org** and **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