



REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

I write today to provide updates and will continue to keep you informed as we navigate this challenging time.

Maryland and District of Columbia Mandates

We continue to review daily all guidance that comes out of the Governor and Mayor's offices to be sure we are aware of any change in the mandates in place in terms of the stay at home orders and their guidelines. Today the Governor of the State of Virginia announced that Virginia will start their Phase I to lessen restrictions on houses of worship to be able to gather for indoor services beginning May 15 with limitations and precautions to be followed. I am sure some of your parishioners may bring this to your attention and I ask that you share with them that the archdiocese continues to follow the mandates of our local jurisdictions, which have not changed at this time. You may also share that we have a committee that has been meeting to draft recommendations for what 're-opening' will look like in our parishes when Maryland and the District decide to start a Phase I to lessen restrictions. Our re-opening plan will be available soon and will be shared with you. We will keep you posted as we hear any updates from our local jurisdictions.

Catholic Schools Update

Our priority is the health and safety of all who are in our school communities. Public officials in all regions have announced the closure of school until the end of the year. In compliance with these orders, all archdiocesan school campuses are closed through the end of the school year. Distance learning will continue through the end of the school's previously planned academic year. Linked [here](#) is a letter from Mr. William Ryan, Secretary for Catholic Schools, to students, parents and guardians.

Central Portal for Finding PPE and Sanitation Supplies in Maryland

I wanted to share this portal with you from the State of Maryland that is available to churches: As the coronavirus pandemic has unfolded, health care providers, first responders and the State of Maryland have sought help to source Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies to enable health care workers and essential employees to safely care for patients and perform their duties. At the same time, manufacturers have reached out to seek guidance on how they can contribute to the cause. In support of this, the State of Maryland joined together with manufacturers to create the Maryland Manufacturing Network, a platform for suppliers to share their current resources and capabilities and for buyers to

identify these suppliers and share their current and upcoming needs. We believe that this portal will enable the network to make the connections necessary to quickly address some of our most crucial supply chain needs. This portal can be found at <https://marylandmanufacturingnetwork.com/>.

Saint Luke Institute Helpline for Clergy and Religious

As previously shared, please find linked [here](#) the press release and phone number from **St. Luke Institute** for their national help line for Clergy and Religious. This is a free confidential service to help clergy and religious that might be experiencing stress and anxiety related to the Covid-19 pandemic from both a mental and spiritual health perspective. Saint Luke Institute also has many resources linked [here](#) from their extensive library to assist clergy, religious, and lay people.

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington (CCAW) Now Open for Visitation

As a reminder from yesterday, based on the guidance issued by Governor Hogan during his press conference on May 6, 2020, CCAW began limited visitation hours yesterday, Thursday, May 7, 2020. **Social distancing must be adhered to while visiting the cemeteries.**

The hours of visitation are as follows:

Monday – Saturday from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm (summer hours)

Sundays and Holidays from 7:30 am until 7:00 pm (summer hours)

These summer visiting hours will remain in effect until further notice.

Catholic Cemeteries has updated their website at www.ccaw.org, will air radio spots for Mother's Day, and is contacting families who have recently inquired about the visitation hours. Additionally, Catholic Cemeteries will immediately allow up to 10 people to attend all Non-Covid-19 burials. Unfortunately, the procedures for all Covid-19 burials will remain unchanged and will be limited to the funeral home personnel, a priest for Committal Prayers, and CCAW staff. Catholic Cemeteries will continue to follow Governor Hogan's guidance closely and will implement new changes as needed. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Mazzuca, President and CEO, at mrmm@ccaw.org or at www.ccaw.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, 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 Pregoner* 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