



## 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.

### **Five Ways to Increase Offertory Giving**

Almost all of our parishes have experienced a decline in offertory giving since the suspension of public Masses in March. However, several parishes have been bright lights in parishioner engagement, which resulted in stable or increased levels of giving. Please review the resource linked [here](#) to learn the Five Ways that parishes can increase offertory giving.

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 3pm for a webinar to discuss the Five Ways in more detail. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

Many Pastoral Center resources are listed in the document; for overall questions, please contact Ms. Adrienne Willich, Executive Director of Parish and School Financial Operations, at [WillichA@adw.org](mailto:WillichA@adw.org).

### **Update on Use of Instruments for Anointing with Chrism**

Regarding the use of instruments for anointing with chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has clarified: "The use by the minister of an instrument (gloves, cotton swab...), does not affect the validity of the Sacrament." As such, the previous instruction is amended to permit the use of instruments. In such cases, please ensure that a separate instrument is used for each candidate and that the instruments are disposed of in a reverent manner (i.e. burned and the ashes buried, or simply buried). You can contact Fr. Martino Choi at [choim@adw.org](mailto:choim@adw.org) if you have any questions.

### **Proxies for Sacraments of Initiation**

As parishes are planning to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation, this is a clarification on parents serving as proxies for sponsors or godparents. Current canonical and liturgical norms prohibit the parents of the baptized/confirmed from serving as sponsors or godparents in order to emphasize rebirth and growth in the spiritual order. Under common practice, parents are discouraged from even serving as proxies (i.e. standing in the place of a sponsor or godparent who cannot attend or witness to the sacramental celebration). However, there is no prohibition *per se* canonically or liturgically on parents serving as proxy sponsors/godparents.

It is still encouraged that sponsors/godparents be present at the liturgical celebrations if possible. However, given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the pandemic, pastors may provide parents the option of serving as proxies. In such cases, it is important to distinguish clearly between the role of the sponsor and the role of the proxy. You can contact Fr. Martino Choi at [choim@adw.org](mailto:choim@adw.org) if you have any questions.

### **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