



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.

Statement from the Catholic Schools Office Regarding Montgomery County Directives and the Opening of Private Schools

I share linked [here](#) the statement from the Catholic Schools Office regarding the most recent statement issued by Montgomery County.

Parish Budgets

As we begin this new fiscal year, I share with you guidance on key pastoral and financial considerations for the parish. Linked [here](#) is the document titled 'Planning Considerations for the Parish Pastoral Advisory Council'. Linked [here](#) is the document titled 'Planning Considerations for the Parish Finance Council'.

Although public Masses have resumed, many of our parishes are finding that attendance is well below pre-pandemic numbers, and although most parishes have implemented on-line giving, offertory revenue continues to lag behind expectations.

The tools linked above are shared to assist you and your parish advisory councils as you discern how to approach planning and budgeting in this challenging time and have frank conversations with your Parish Pastoral Councils to identify the most pressing pastoral needs of the parish. Based on the essential ministries outlined in Canon Law, the chart linked above provides questions to facilitate frank conversations on parish ministries and the creation of a plan for maintaining essential ministries during the Pandemic.

Once you have determined your strategic priorities, please consult with your Finance Council on the budget required for the parish to be sustainable and strive to operate within its means during this time.

Lastly, I encourage you to be transparent with your parishioners about the parish financial condition and outlook. Please consider increasing the depth and frequency of your communications so that parishioners feel empowered to actively participate in supporting the ministry of the parish.

Should you have questions about the review process for the ministries of your parish, please reach out to Deborah A. McDonald at McDonaldD@adw.org. Should you have

questions about the finances of your parish, please reach out to Adrienne Willich at WillichA@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, 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 service, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia