



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.

Archbishop Gregory Named Apostolic Administrator of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Herbert A. Bevard of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and named Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as Apostolic Administrator.

Archbishop Gregory continues serving as Archbishop of Washington, while for now also serving as Apostolic Administrator of St. Thomas, which is a suffragan diocese of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Bishop Bevard has headed the diocese since he was installed September 3, 2008. He is 74 years old and turns 75 on Feb. 24, 2021, the age at which canon law requires bishops turn in their resignation to the pope.

His resignation was announced in Washington, today, September 18, by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Papal Nuncio to the United States.

Office of Catechesis Webinars

The Office for Catechesis has developed a series of webinars to assist parish catechetical leaders in planning and implementing faith formation programs for children, youth and adults in the unique circumstances of this time. The webinars can be found [here](#)

An upcoming webinar on supporting and engaging families in faith formation (Tuesday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m.) may be of interest to you and your catechetical team. For more information, contact Sara Blauvelt (blauvelts@adw.org).

Deferral of Employees' Payroll Taxes

On August 8, 2020, President Trump issued an executive order allowing for the deferral of employees' Social Security taxes from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The executive order applies to employees with a biweekly income under \$4,000. The taxes, which are normally withheld from an employee's paycheck by employers, are

September 18, 2020 2:20 pm

deferred until January 1, 2021, and must be repaid in full by May 1, 2021. Employers are not required to allow their employees to defer their payroll taxes.

After review, we have determined that we will **not** be offering the payroll deferral option for employees at our parishes and schools for several reasons, including: first, the deferral provides a negligible, short-term benefit to employees; second, there are concerns and questions about how the deferral will be implemented, including how employers will be affected if an employee's wages during the first quarter of 2021 fail to repay the deferred payroll taxes; and finally, implementation of the deferral will present an additional administrative burden for our parish staff.

Should you have any questions, please contact Nanette Lowe, Executive Director of Human Resources at lowen@adw.org.

Status of Prince George's County as of September 17, 2020

Places of worship in Prince George's County may currently [open for indoor gatherings](#) up to 50 percent capacity (including both liturgies and social events in parish halls), as well as outdoor services up to 250 persons, both with appropriate social distancing, face coverings and sanitation procedures. Buffet-style food service is not allowed.

The County [announced](#) yesterday that it will allow some additional openings – as well as some greater restrictions – under its modified Phase Two (the County also says it is still not ready to proceed to Stage Three under [Governor Hogan's Sept. 1 executive order](#)). Face coverings are now required for all persons in any public indoor location over the age of five (previously over the age of nine), and parents are no longer allowed to enter childcare facilities for drop-off or pick-up.

Youth sports defined as "[medium risk](#)" – such as soccer, baseball, and lacrosse – may now resume with no more than nine team members and one coach, and a maximum of 100 persons in any given area. There are also additional openings of banquet halls, receptions and meeting rooms in "hotels, conference centers and similar establishments" at 50 percent capacity up to a maximum of 150 persons, but since parish facilities are already open to social events, this change does not significantly affect archdiocesan operations.

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 on-line at cathstan.org and elpreg.org.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know. Please be assured of my prayers for you.

September 18, 2020 2:20 pm

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia