



## REVEREND DANIEL B. CARSON

VICAR GENERAL AND MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

Dear Brother Priest,

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

### **New Executive Order on Mass Attendance for the District of Columbia**

Last night D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a **new executive order** that went into effect at 12:01 am today, December 17, 2020. Specifically, the order now allows our D.C. churches up to 25% of capacity for religious services with a maximum cap of 250 people of worshippers and leaders at Mass combined. For example, if your church holds 600 people, the parish would be limited up to 150 people per Mass under this new order. All social distancing requirements, mask wearing and health protocols remain in place.

The order also requires churches to monitor attendance to ensure they stay below the new capacity limits. This can be done through any means, such as reservation systems, counting at the door, or otherwise.

We are working with our legal team to continue evaluating next steps regarding the litigation and we will keep you updated.

### **Religious Education Faith Knowledge Assessment (FKA)**

After significant consideration, we have decided to exempt parishes from participating in the Faith Knowledge Assessment in the 2020-2021 academic year. The expectation remains that parishes will continue to use the *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization* Curriculum guide as the focus for catechetical formation. All parishes are expected to participate in the FKA when it resumes in the 2021-2022 academic year. Please contact Sara Blauvelt [atblauvelts@adw.org](mailto:atblauvelts@adw.org) should you have any questions.

### **Maryland Bishops Encourage Use of COVID Vaccine**

The bishops of the Archdiocese of Washington, Archdiocese of Baltimore and Diocese of Wilmington have issued a letter encouraging the use of the COVID vaccine linked **here** in English and linked **here** in Spanish. Please share this with your community as you deem appropriate.

## **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](https://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/](https://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](https://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](https://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.

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