



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.

Cardinal Gregory Thank You Video

Linked **here** is a thank you video from Cardinal Gregory with his request for the Faithful to remember their parishes in their end of year giving plans. Please distribute to your communities in the manner you determine is best.

Faculty for Priests to Celebrate Four Masses

In order to allow the greatest number of the faithful the opportunity to attend Mass in their churches on the holy days of the coming season, while respecting the measures taken to protect public health, and in accordance with the Decree issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments on 16 December 2020, Cardinal Gregory has granted to Archdiocese of Washington priests and priests resident in the Archdiocese of Washington, the faculty to celebrate four Masses on each of the following holy days:

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), 25 December 2020;

The Solemnity of Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God, 1 January 2021; and

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, 6 January 2021.

Please note that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, issued on April 11, 2020, remains in effect.

Personal Travel during COVID-19 pandemic as of December 21, 2020

Currently, the District of Columbia and Maryland both advise that travel be limited to essential purposes only. The CDC also continues to advise about the risks associated with travelling at this time. Employees who do plan to travel outside the DMV area should review the applicable jurisdictional requirements before departing and make arrangements to ensure that they comply with any applicable testing or isolation requirements upon their return for in-person work.

- District of Columbia current regulations generally require self-quarantining and recommend, but do not mandate, testing: see [Mayor's Order 2020-110](#) and [DC Health Guidance for Travel](#)

- Maryland current regulations generally require both self-quarantining and testing for travel outside of D.C., Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia: see [Governor's Executive Order 20-12-17-01](#), and [Md. Dept. of Health Advisory](#), and also [Md. Dept. of Health Directive and Order](#)(updated on 12/18/2020)

Employees should speak to their supervisor well in advance about their travel plans and discuss whether the employee can work virtually upon their return, if necessary. If an employee does not obtain prior permission to work remotely (or if a position is unable to be performed remotely), the employee may be required to use accrued leave to cover their absence from work.

Should you have questions, please reach out to Nanette Lowe at ArchdioceseHR@adw.org

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Statement in Support of Covid-19 Vaccines

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) has published a statement, linked [here](#), on the morality of using some anti-COVID 19 vaccines. The statement reinforces material previously published by the [USCCB](#) and Catholic Health Association (CHA). At this point in time, Moderna and Pfizer have both developed vaccines using mRNA, and without the use of controversial fetal cell lines. However, both vaccines have been tested using controversial fetal cell lines. Given the remote connection between these cells and the vaccines, both COVID vaccines are in line with previous moral statements made by Pope Benedict XVI and the Pontifical Academy for Life. Receiving either vaccine would be morally permissible and would certainly also be an important pro-life decision that would help to defend the most vulnerable members of our community, who are at the most risk of developing severe coronavirus cases. This new statement from the CDF also clarifies that “when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available...*it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.*” The AstraZeneca vaccine used controversial HEK293 lines (descended from two abortions that took place in the 1960s) in its development. However, because most people do not have a choice in the vaccine that they receive, it is morally permissible to take this vaccine in order to protect the lives of those who are most at risk of serious coronavirus.

Please consider sharing this information with members of your parish community. At this point in time, there is a significant amount of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccines. We would like to encourage people to consider the life-saving impact of the vaccine, and to receive the vaccine if and when they are able. The health protocol measures we have taken (i.e., social distancing, mask wearing, etc.), as well as the new vaccines, will help to protect the lives of the vulnerable. Should you have any questions, please email Kathryn Windels at WindelsK@adw.org.

Also, linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish are stories in our Archdiocesan newspapers.

New Portraits of Cardinal Gregory

Each parish, school and corporation main office in the Archdiocese of Washington will receive one 8" x 10" portrait of Cardinal Gregory at no cost.

Linemark Printing will be sending the portraits directly to each parish, school and corporation that will fit in the standard 11" x 14" frame when using the mat from the current portrait frames. The mailings should go out in mid-January 2021.

A website link will be set up and provided so that additional portraits can be purchased by each location if needed. This link will be available in mid-January 2021.

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.

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