



Very 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 Wilton Gregory and Bishop Michael Burbidge to Address Racism at “Open Wide Our Hearts” Conference

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, Cardinal Gregory will serve as the keynote speaker and join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington at “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love.” The conference, named after the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2018 [pastoral letter responding to racism](#), is hosted by the Diocese of Arlington’s Peace and Justice Commission and will be held at the Church of the Nativity in Burke, Va. Presenters will take an honest look at racism in our communities and discuss how Catholics should respond. Immediately prior to the conference, Cardinal Gregory will celebrate Mass in the church.

“Sadly, more than 50 years after the civil rights movement began in this country, the evil of racism continues to exist in our nation,” said Bishop Burbidge. “While great progress has been made to ensure that the rights of individuals are protected and injustices exposed, the wounds of racism persist and cry out for healing, unity and peace. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond and to confront all forms of prejudice and bigotry. We have a sacred duty to do our part in replacing all forms of hatred with love, so that we can live in harmony as brothers and sisters united in Christ. I thank Cardinal Gregory for his ongoing leadership on this issue as we collaborate in addressing this evil.”

Panelists include: Emelda August, parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City who works with the parish's Black History & Heritage Outreach Ministry to promote Black Catholic saints; Alexandra Luevano, Clinic Director, Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic at Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington and member of the Diocese of Arlington's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism; and Jose Aguto, Associate Director of the Catholic Climate Covenant in Washington, D.C., who has worked for the National Congress of American Indians and as a Policy and Development Associate for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

What: Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love Conference

When: Saturday, March 20, 2021

5 p.m. Mass

7 p.m. Keynote Address, Panel and Q&A

Where: Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015

To Watch Live: The Mass, keynote and panel discussion will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Arlington's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s8tvSWkcu4>.

Registration is not needed for the livestream.

Limited registration for safe social distancing in-person is already at capacity. Interested individuals and media are invited to view the conference via [livestream](#).

The conference was rescheduled from March 2020 due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and is part of an overall effort to address racism in the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Arlington, and beyond.

Last August, at a Mass marking the anniversary of the March on Washington, Cardinal Gregory announced the initiative "[Made in God's Image: Pray and Work to End the Sin of Racism \(CCC 1935\)](#)" to fight racial injustice. The initiative includes a range of pastoral activities and outreach including prayer, listening sessions, faith formation opportunities and social justice work.

For additional information on the "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love" Conference or on the Diocese of Arlington's efforts, contact Amber Roseboom, Director of Media Relations, Catholic Diocese of Arlington, at 571-215-8731 or Amber.Roseboom@arlingtondiocese.org.

College of Consultors Meetings

Please note that there are only two (2) remaining College of Consultors meetings scheduled for the current term: May 13, 2021 and June 10, 2021. The College of Consultors will reconvene in September. If you have a major fundraising effort, planned construction project, or significant parish expenditures of \$100,000 or more (e.g., roof repairs or replacement, parking lot paving, repair or replacement to heating ventilation air conditioning system), this project or expenditure will require the review and approval of the College of Consultors.

Accordingly, please submit your request and supporting documentation to my attention for consideration. Please remember that there is a three (3) bid requirement for parish projects. Please be in contact with Michelle Shelton

March 17, 2021 5:52pm

(sheltonm@adw.org), in the Real Estate/Facilities Management Office should you have any questions.

Optional Bulletin Announcement Concerning Covid-19 Vaccines

There has been an increased amount of requests of our offices from parishes for information about the vaccines that can be shared with parishioners. Listed below are bulletin announcements prepared by the Office of Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns. Please share with your communities in the way you determine is best.

A Note on the COVID-19 Vaccine:

Throughout the past few weeks, there have been many conversations within the Catholic community about the safety and morality of COVID-19 vaccines. The Archdiocese of Washington supports and affirms the statement published on March 2, 2021 by the [USCCB](#), which states: “given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good.”

A December 2020 statement from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 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 coronavirus pandemic has killed more than 500,000 Americans. Therefore, there is great urgency to vaccinate our community and it is morally permissible for all Catholics to take this vaccine in order to protect the lives of those who are most at risk of serious coronavirus. Most people in Maryland and the District of Columbia will not have a choice in what vaccine they receive, and it is morally beneficial for each person to receive the vaccine that is most readily and immediately available to them to expedite the end of this deadly pandemic. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit our website at <https://adw.org/coronavirus/faq-on-covid-19-vaccine-development/>

The Virtue of Prudence and the COVID-19 Vaccine:

Catholic moral teaching calls us to care for the common good, avoiding association with grave evil. Our Catholic moral teachings also teach us to take action to protect each and every person we encounter, especially the most vulnerable. This teaching has not changed in the life of the Church, and will never change. Our opposition to abortion and the development of vaccines using cell lines descended from the act of abortion should be made clear to pharmaceutical companies.

When applying these moral values to the complex and nuanced situations we face in daily life, we are called to use the virtue of prudence. Prudence calls us to seek the most good in each and every situation, while avoiding evil. For many of us, our commitment to protecting life at all stages calls each of us to receive

the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, in order to defend those most at risk of serious coronavirus. Because the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia have limited vaccines available during this rollout process, we encourage each member of the Archdiocese of Washington to receive the COVID-19 vaccine that is most readily and easily available. By seeking vaccination, we can help to protect our vulnerable communities from this deadly pandemic. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit our website at <https://adw.org/coronavirus/faq-on-covid-19-vaccine-development/>

As a Catholic, can I receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

Yes. There is a very remote connection between the act of abortion and the HEK293 cell lines. All COVID-19 vaccines are in line with the moral statements made by the Catholic Church that have been made in the past fifty years. In the event that you are offered a COVID-19 vaccine that is developed from cell lines from abortion (such as the case of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine), a December 2020 statement from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith 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.”

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Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to the coronavirus, adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/ for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

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