



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.

Covid-19 Vaccine

Click [here](#) to review the current ADW chart summarizing all of our local jurisdiction's phases for availability of the vaccine. We will continue to update you as new avenues and eligibility to vaccines are made available.

2019-2020 Annual Statistical Report

Thank you to the parishes that have already completed the 2019-2020 Annual Statistical Report. I am resending the notice below because we have not heard from several parishes. If you have not already completed this task, I ask that you make it a priority to submit your parish's Annual Statistical Report no later than Monday, March 8, 2021.

Please forward this email to the member of your staff that will assist you with completing this report. The Statistical Report to be completed can be found [HERE](#).

Note from the Moderator's Office regarding second round of Payroll Protection Program Loans, the Employee Retention Credit and Educational Funding

At the end of December, Congress passed another relief package that included an appropriation for a second round of Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funding, raising the possibility that some of our parishes, schools and affiliated corporations may want to re-apply for additional PPP. Since that time, we have been working with neighboring dioceses, the USCCB and outside counsel to determine if we should recommend that parishes apply for this second round and what, if any, risks were posed by the receipt of federal funds from the new administration.

The most significant risk is the prospect of new federal regulations impacting Catholic identity that we expect to be imposed on recipients of federal

funds. Other risks range from restrictions on employment levels and our autonomy to make HR decisions, additional government regulation and oversight, potential audit or scrutiny by the Small Business Administration (SBA), potential negative publicity (i.e., the church is taking more government handouts), and potential impacts to our medical plans, such as federal mandates related to the provision of contraceptives and abortifacients, and medical services related to gender identity. Based on these inquiries, we are sorry to come to the conclusion that the risks, especially the risk to our Catholic Identity, would greatly outweigh any monetary benefits. We will continue to monitor this and provide updates if necessary.

Parishes that have not already applied for loan forgiveness of an existing loan from round one of the PPP are urged to do so at once. On existing SBA PPP loans, parishes should work with Parish and School Financial Operations for a review of their draft forgiveness application prior to submission to the bank. The parish has 10 months from the end of their covered loan period to apply for forgiveness in order to avoid making loan payments. If you have any questions about loan forgiveness, please contact Adrienne Willich at willich@adw.org.

We are also reviewing other avenues of funding available under the recent relief packages. We are currently looking at several firms to work with us to receive payroll tax credits for parishes, schools and affiliated corporations under the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) and will provide updates once we have finished our review. These credits would reduce our future payroll tax liabilities and, as a result, are not considered the receipt of federal funds and would not obligate us to any potential federal regulations. Additionally, receipt of such credits, since they are through the IRS, would be held completely confidential.

Our Catholic Schools Office and Office of General Counsel are also assisting our parishes with schools to obtain needed supplies and services using the educational funding that Congress allocated for non-public schools in the relief package. Unlike PPP, the educational funding is not treated as direct federal funding, and a participation in the second round of the PPP would render our parishes with schools ineligible for this educational funding.

Wearing of Masks

The Moderators Office has recently received questions from the faithful and from parish staff about the wearing of masks. Please note the following reminder:

- Priests should wear a mask when moving about the Church (i.e., arriving, leaving or processing) or greeting the Faithful. Proper social distancing should be followed. Priests may remove masks when celebrating Mass but must wear the mask when distributing Communion.

- In terms of working in the office, priests are asked to be aware of the preference of staff with regard to the wearing of masks. If masks are not worn in the offices of your parishes, staff should be offered the ability to work remotely if

possible. As an example, staff at the Pastoral Center are required to wear masks at all times except when they working are alone in their own office.

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