



**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 Gregory's Statement Regarding the Derek Chauvin Trial Verdict**

*As the Chauvin trial has now concluded and the guilty verdict about the murder of George Floyd is known, we are working through this moment of national anxiety as we accept the jury's decision.*

*We join our hearts and prayers with those in the Minnesota community. We echo the call of Archbishop Bernard Hebda for peace and non-violence in all of our communities.*

*As the Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us and the life example of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. showed us, it is the virtue of charity, non-violence, prayer, and working together that moves us toward reconciliation and true healing from trauma we have experienced. Unified, we build toward sustainable peace for our families, our communities, and our nation.*

*With this verdict now public, let us renew our commitment to respect one another and remember our shared humanity. We are one human family - of various cultures, races, religions, and backgrounds - all made in God's image.*

*May we choose to respond with civility and respect for the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters, as we continue the work of rooting out all injustices and systemic racism in our society.*

*Creator of All, Stay With Us Now and Always.*

En Español - [here](#)

**Important Update Regarding Marriage Jubilarian Mass: June 27, 2021**

Due to COVID restrictions, in-person participation for the Jubilarian Mass is limited to 50 couples. Parishes are able to register one couple to attend the Mass. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis, until capacity is reached. The

April 21, 2021 4:11pm

Mass will be live-streamed on Sunday, June 27 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Matthew to honor couples celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70+ years. All couples registered by May 14<sup>th</sup> will receive a Jubilarian anniversary certificate regardless of in-person Mass participation. To register couples from your parish and for parish promotional resources [click here](#). For more information please contact the Office for Family Life at [301-853-4546](tel:301-853-4546) or [visibleesign@adw.org](mailto:visibleesign@adw.org)

## **Christian Burial Resources**

Accompanying families who are experiencing the death of someone they love is one of the most fulfilling and important aspects of pastoral ministry. However, in an increasingly secularized culture, offering words of hope and consolation in light of the mystery of dying and the Resurrection is increasingly beyond the grasp of many Catholics. In light of this identified need, the Catholic Cemetery Conference recently developed free materials aimed at educating clergy and laity in the rich Catholic burial traditions. The “Promoting a Culture of Christian Burial” website linked [here](#) offers videos and educational materials for your use.

While the website has resources for grieving family members, it is advisable for you, or someone from your parish staff, to review the material in advance. The sample homilies and marketing materials for Catholic cemeteries might be off-putting for grieving families. You must create an account to view the materials. Once you have created an account and reviewed the material, you may download and print any resources you would like to share with parishioners. If your parish does not already have a funeral-planning guide, the [Scripture Readings and Suggested Music for Funerals](#) resource may be of particular use.

A resource, linked [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Spanish, developed by the Archdiocese of Washington, entitled “Mass of Christian Burial” provides an overview of the theological significance of Catholic funeral liturgies and burial. This may be helpful in supporting family and friends who may be non-Catholics, Catholics who rarely or never participate in the Eucharist, or some who seem even to have lost the faith. Please remember that funerals are key evangelization moments where Catholics who have fallen away from the faith, often consider returning to the faith, especially if they encounter welcoming parish staff and priests. Consider having copies available not only when families come to plan a funeral liturgy, but also in the vestibule or at some other appropriate location throughout the year. Additionally, this resource can be customized for your parish. Simply hover the cursor in the blank area at the bottom of the first page to add parish contact information.

It is my hope that you, your pastoral staff and parishioners involved in bereavement ministry will find this information of help in ministering to people who are mourning and in need of hope, which our secular culture fails to offer.

## **Office of Life Resources Update**

Pastors, priests and parishioners may have questions about end-of-life medical treatment decisions and advance directives. The Office for Life Issues has begun

updating the resources to include new information on life issues/Catholic bioethics. In the interim, the Maryland Catholic Conference [here](#) has several resources to address such questions. Although the Maryland Catholic Conference published these documents, the information is still relevant and valuable for non-Maryland residents.

In the coming weeks, the Office of Life Issues will be publishing the End-of-Life Resource Guide. This guide will provide an overview of ADW resources to assist individuals who are experiencing the death of a loved one. The Resource Guide will address advance care planning, end-of-life ethics, funeral planning, grief ministries, and many other topics. This guide will be sent electronically to each pastor and mailed to each parish along with the [Affirming Life Resource Guide](#). For more information, and for a brief overview of the resources available from Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, please visit our website at: <https://adw.org/living-the-faith/marriage-family/end-life-care/>.

### **Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website**

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see [adw.org/coronavirus](https://adw.org/coronavirus) for information related to the coronavirus, [adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/](https://adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/) for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and [cathstan.org](https://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](https://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