



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.

Worldwide Marian Prayer Gathering – May 17

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked for this month of May to be dedicated in a special way to pray for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic. In response to the Pope's call, the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization is organizing a month-long "marathon" of prayer in the principal Sanctuaries of the world.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will take part in the marathon, and has been asked to lead the worldwide recitation of the Rosary on Monday, May 17 with the following special intention: "for world leaders and the heads of international organizations". Cardinal Gregory will lead this service from the Basilica at 11:00 a.m. EDT. EWTN will be broadcasting this prayer service.

Further information about the initiative can be found at the website of the Pontifical Council at www.pcpne.va

Please share this information with your community in the way you determine is best.

HR 5, The Equality Act

The U.S. Bishops have publicly spoken on HR 5, more commonly known as the Equality Act. The bill has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently being considered in the Senate. According to the Bishops, HR 5 would discriminate against faith-based organizations including Catholic Charities and our schools. For more information and resources, please visit: <https://www.usccb.org/equality-act>.

To join our Bishops in opposing HR 5 by sending e-mails to lawmakers, please go to the USCCB action center page:

<https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/80967/Respond>

Notice for Parishes Offering Online Masses or Other Services

Parishes using copyrighted hymns during Masses or other services that are streamed or otherwise shared online risk legal liability unless they have a streaming/podcast license—this is *different* from the normal reprint license many parishes have. The Archdiocese is renewing its annual group copyright license, which allows parishes to legally stream/podcast hymns at a discounted rate. If your parish offers online Masses with hymns, please contact our Office of General Counsel at legaladmin@adw.org or (301) 853-4495 no later than **Friday, May 14, 2021**, to ensure your parish is protected and included in the group license if desired.

Employee FMLA and ADA Requests

The Office of Human Resources is excited to announce that beginning May 1, 2021 all FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requests are managed by the third-party vendor, Matrix, a division of Reliance Standard. Employees will engage directly with Matrix to request FMLA leave and ADA accommodations, and Matrix will determine eligibility and collect any necessary documentation. There is no change to the current FMLA benefits for our employees, this is simply an administrative change to ensure independent determination, similar to the outsourcing of unemployment. Information regarding the new FMLA process, as well as flyers and FAQs are available in CHRIS under Myself>Electronic Forms. If you have any questions, please contact Nanette Lowe lowen@adw.org

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