

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Thank You & Merry Christmas!

I appreciate all that you have done and continue to do in serving the faithful and your communities during this very challenging time. I hope that you have a very blessed Christmas season.

May you rejoice in the glory of the birth of Christ and celebrate the miracles and blessings of the Holy Spirit. May we all look toward the New Year 2022 with hope of a healthy and post-pandemic future.

Epiphany Dinner for Priests

Unfortunately, because of the rising number of cases of the Covid-19 virus, the Epiphany Dinner for Priests, previously scheduled for January 2, 2022 is postponed. While I know that many of you are disappointed, we will be looking at alternate dates in the spring when we can gather the priests together.

COVID Testing Locations

State and local authorities in Maryland and the District of Columbia are recommending that "anyone who needs a COVID test" should get one. To find a testing site or availability of free take-home tests, visit the below-listed websites:

- District of
 Columbia: coronavirus.dc.gov/testing and coronavirus.dc.gov/testyourself
- State of Maryland portal: <u>covidtest.maryland.gov</u>
- Calvert County: <u>calvertcountycovid19.com/testing-sites</u>
- Charles County: <u>charlescountycovid.org/testing/</u>
- Montgomery County: <u>montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html</u>
- Prince George's County: princegeorgescountymd.gov/3472/COVID-19-Testing

• St. Mary's County: smchd.org/covid-19-testing/

Recent Tornado and Storms in Kentucky

In light of the recent catastrophic devastation in Kentucky, and in the Diocese of Owensboro, Cardinal Gregory has sent funds from our archdiocese to assist with the recovery.

The Diocese of Owensboro, through their Catholic Charities Office, is offering immediate help and services for those who are displaced or who have immediate emergency financial aid needs. Many of those injured in the Mayfield candle factory were parishioners of the Diocese of Owensboro, and others represented migrants and the marginalized in the community.

The Church of Washington has always shown great generosity in response to these tragedies. Please share with your communities that donations to assist can be sent through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro as follows:

- You can give online to help Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro help those impacted by the recent devastation in our communities. Please visit <u>https://owensborodiocese.org/give/</u> and select Tornado Relief – Catholic Charities.
- Checks may be mailed to: Catholic Charities Tornado Relief, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY, 42301

Pastoral Center Christmas Break

The offices of the Pastoral Center will be closed beginning Friday, December 24 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 4. Should you need to reach out to the Moderator's Office during this time, please feel free to email me at <u>carsond@adw.org</u> or call 301-853-4571 or email Terry Farrell at <u>farrellt@adw.org</u> or call 301-853-4507.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see <u>adw.org/coronavirus</u> for information related to the coronavirus, <u>adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/</u> for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and <u>cathstan.org</u> and <u>elpreg.org</u> 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