



Moderator of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Brother in Christ,

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

General Absolution and Faculty to Administer the Sacrament of Confirmation

General Absolution

On January 3, 2022, the decree by which priests of, or actually present in, the Archdiocese were permitted to grant General Absolution will be rescinded.

Faculty to Administer the Sacrament of Confirmation

On January 3, 2022, the decree by which Pastors and Parochial Administrators in the Archdiocese were delegated the faculty to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation within their parish boundaries (cf. cc. 882; 884, §1), will be rescinded, and the *status quo ante* is restored.

Priests incardinated in the Archdiocese already possess, and continue to possess, the faculty to confirm:

- at the time of baptism one who is seven years of age or older and
- one who is already baptized and is being admitted into full communion of the Catholic Church.

This faculty is restricted to those priests who by reason of office or mandate of the Archbishop can baptize or receive the above individuals into the Church. (c. 883, 2°; Archdiocese of Washington, Priests' Faculties and Permissions, no. 2).

Priests who possess the faculty to confirm those whom they baptize or receive into full communion must use it for those in whose favor the faculty was granted (c. 885, §2).

A special faculty must be obtained from the Office of Canonical Services for a priest to confirm one who was baptized in the Catholic Church but who was never catechized (cf. c. 884, §1).

By the law itself all priests possess the faculty to confirm those in danger of death (c. 883, 3°).

Free Covid Testing Kits Available in Maryland

Free at-home rapid **COVID testing kits are available** while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis, through local health departments across Maryland. Each of the 500,000 kits provided by the Maryland Dept. of Health contains two tests for self-administered use by one person at least 36 hours apart and within three days of each other. Results are available in 15 minutes.

Test kits are available in (follow links for more information):

- **Montgomery County** – Dennis Avenue Health Center, Upcounty Regional Services Center, and Montgomery College-Rockville campus.
- **Prince George's County** – Roughly 1,700 kits will be allocated to public libraries per week, one per patron.
- Information regarding test kit distribution in the southern Maryland counties is not yet available.
- Individuals are encouraged to report their test results, both positive and negative, using the Abbott NAVICA app, **website**, or by calling (833) 637-1594.

The supply of free kits is limited, so parish and school personnel are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and act swiftly. Lab-based PCR testing also continues to be widely accessible across the state. To find a testing site, visit **covidtest.maryland.gov**.

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