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.

Synod Update

Regional Synod Sessions:

The Archdiocese will hold four regional Synod sessions. The regional sessions will allow for smaller gatherings in light of continuing issues with COVID.

Please submit the names of your parish delegates using this link: https://adw.org/parish-nomination-form-for-archdiocesan-synod-delegates/

Invitations to the Regional Synod Sessions will be sent out on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Clergy are invited to attend the Regional Synod Sessions with their delegates.

The Regional Synod Sessions are as follows:

Montgomery County: Saturday, March 12, 2022 at St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood, MD from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:00 pm.

Prince George's County: Saturday, March 19, 2022 at St. Joseph's in Largo, MD from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert Counties: Saturday, March 26, 2022 at Our Lady Help of Christians in Waldorf, MD from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:00 p.m.

District of Columbia: Saturday, May 14, 2022 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, D.C. from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 4:30 p.m.

IT Related Items and Training

Recently, all staff of the archdiocese that use an ADW.ORG email address were sent an email that alerted each user to a one-time mandatory 45-minute cyber security awareness training that will be assigned to all current ADW email account holders. Ideally, we should have advised you that you would be getting this request for training. I do ask that you and your staff complete the training as soon as possible. Michael Wilson, Executive Director of IT, is available to answer questions and can be reached at WilsonMI@adw.org.

Additionally, on January 31, 2022 a simulated phishing baseline test was run against all ADW email accounts. A simulated phishing test sends out emails that look like actual phishing emails, however, they are not malicious and instead of being sent by bad actors, are sent from Knowbe4, a security awareness vendor that the Archdiocese uses for security awareness training and testing.

A quick overview of the results:

ADW Phishprone Score: 22.2% *

Industry Benchmark: 31.5% **

* Phishprone = the percentage of users who click a simulated phishing email.

** Industry Benchmark = Baseline score of all KnowBe4 customers in the non-profit sector with an organization size of 250-1000 users.

After 90 days of security awareness training and additional simulated phishing tests the industry baseline drops to 19.6% and after 1 year, it drops to 4.4%. Therefore, our goal is to reduce the current ADW Phishprone score of 22.2% to below 4% by January 2023.

There were over 50 help desk tickets opened by recipients of the phishing test who were questioning the validity of the test email. This shows that prior investments in security awareness training were effective, let's build on this existing knowledgebase.

Future steps to lower the Phishprone score:

- Monthly brief security awareness video content will be assigned to all ADW email account holders
- Monthly simulated phishing tests
- Monthly security awareness newsletter

Thank you for your attention and diligence. Together we can protect the Archdiocese.

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