



# Moderator of the Curia

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## 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.

### **Confirmation and Calendar Request Forms for 2022-2023**

It is that time of year again to complete the Confirmation and Calendar Request Form for 2022-2023. *Like last year, you are requested to complete the forms electronically. No additional letter is required.*

#### **CONFIRMATION REQUEST:**

Please complete the Confirmation Request Form [HERE](#) for your parish by Monday, May 2, 2022.

*For scheduling purposes and in an effort to accommodate every parish, it is very important that your request is received no later than Monday, May 2, 2022.*

Please note that there will be the opportunity for your parish to participate in a Regional Confirmation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory will confirm these candidates on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **CALENDAR REQUEST:**

Please complete the Calendar Request Form [HERE](#). If your parish/school is hosting a special event or Mass at which you would like to request the presence of Cardinal Gregory, an auxiliary bishop, or Cardinal Wuerl you are asked to complete and return this form by Monday, May 2, 2022.

*Again, for planning purposes, this form must be received by Monday, May 2, 2022.* Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but please know that not every request can be honored.

At the end of the summer, you will be notified as to your scheduled date of Confirmation as well as any Calendar Requests you submitted. Please note that if

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you have previously requested Cardinal Gregory to attend an event by way of letter, email or memorandum in the past few months, I ask that you now submit a calendar request.

## **Abortion Bills in Maryland General Assembly**

Following up on our message from two weeks ago, our public policy and life issues team has continued to support the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) in its advocacy efforts and targeted outreach to parishes in key legislative districts on several abortion bills. The House Government and Operations Committee has scheduled a vote for this Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> on a bill that would enshrine abortion in the Maryland State Constitution ([HB1171](#)), for which MCC has issued an action alert for people to sign this petition: [https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo\\_id=15701](https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=15701).

The Committee is also voting that day on the Abortion Care Access Act ([HB937/SB890](#)) and the Access to Abortion Care and Health Insurance Act, ([HB952](#)). Later, the legislature will take action on another abortion bill, the Pregnant Person's Freedom Act, ([HB626/SB669](#)).

Our ongoing advocacy efforts are still needed, and pastors are encouraged to continue to share these updates with their parish communities through social media, email, and Flocknote messages so that they may contact their legislators to voice opposition now. The Archdiocese has added messages into the Flocknote library so that parishes can easily share this information. Please continue to monitor and share updates on these bills as they are listed in ADW social media. Additional resources can be found on the Maryland Catholic Conference website: <https://www.mdcatholic.org/parish-respectlifeadvocacy>. The faithful can find contact information for their specific legislators by entering their home address here: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>.

If you have any questions or would like additional resources, please contact Kathryn Yanik, Director of Life Issues at [yanikk@adw.org](mailto:yanikk@adw.org), 301-853-5318, or Andrew Rivas, Manager of Public Policy at [rivasa@adw.org](mailto:rivasa@adw.org), 202-683-1721.

## **Settlement Funds from Lawsuit with DC on Capacity Restrictions**

As you may recall, the Archdiocese retained counsel to bring suit against the District of Columbia to challenge the capacity restrictions on houses of worship that were in place through early 2021. In two rounds of briefings, our legal team obtained greater capacity for our churches to allow more of our faithful to worship together just in time for the Christmas of 2020, eliminated all capacity limits in time for this past Easter, and just concluded a final settlement whereby the District paid all of our legal fees. The District's settlement payment also included nearly \$18,000 in damages to cover additional costs that parishes may have incurred due to the capacity restrictions that had been in place through early 2021 (e.g., additional utility costs, staff time, supplies, etc.).

While the purpose of the suit was to open our churches, and not to recover damages, we thought it most appropriate to distribute these funds evenly to our DC parishes. Accordingly, we will be wiring each DC parish \$477.54 for its share of the settlement proceeds.

### **Ken Gaughan Plea Hearing**

We wanted to keep you informed of a development in the federal criminal case against Mr. Kenneth Gaughan, a former employee of the Catholic Schools Office. Mr. Gaughan has entered a guilty plea on charges of defrauding the archdiocese and on separate charges of defrauding the U.S. government in connection with the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). He is scheduled to be sentenced on June 15, 2022. Below is a copy of the Archdiocese's media statement. As always, if you receive any press inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications.

### **Statement on Ken Gaughan Plea Hearing (March 2, 2022)**

Today, Mr. Kenneth Gaughan, a former employee of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, entered a guilty plea on charges of wire fraud arising from his fraudulent scheme to embezzle funds from the Archdiocese's Catholic Schools Office over the course of several years. We are grateful for the efforts of the FBI and the United States Attorney's offices in the District of Columbia and Maryland in investigating and prosecuting these crimes.

We pray that Mr. Gaughan's acceptance of responsibility will be a step toward healing for all those impacted by his crimes, and we pray for Mr. Gaughan as well. Responsible stewardship of the financial gifts generously entrusted to the Church is a responsibility that the Archdiocese takes very seriously. Anyone who may suspect financial or other misconduct involving any Archdiocesan employee, office, or other setting is encouraged to make a report to the Archdiocese.

### **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