



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.

Security Incidents

On Easter Monday, one of our Montgomery County parishes had their offertory collection box in the church broken into and the Monday collection was stolen. The church at the time was open. After breaking into the box, the suspect entered the rectory through an open door before being confronted by a priest and leaving the property.

Recent information shared with us is that approximately 20 Virginia churches (Catholic and non-Catholic) have recently sustained similar thefts from the poor boxes in their churches. In some of those occurrences, the suspect has also tried to obtain entry into the rectory.

I share this information so that you are aware and perhaps conduct your own review of the operations of your parish in this regard.

Previously, in February 2019, a Parish Security Committee, made up of archdiocesan clergy and laypeople, offered recommendations regarding steps you should take regarding local parish security. You can find these recommendations [here](#).

Pro-Life Grant Program

For the past several years, the Office of Life Issues has supported local pregnancy centers through the Pro-Life Grant Program. This grant program awards funds to pregnancy centers that serve mothers and children in

need. This year, the Pro-Life Grant Program will expand to offer financial support to parishes, while continuing our support of these community organizations.

We hope that each of your parishes will consider applying for a pro-life grant to support your ministries. These funds can be used to support a wide range of programs and campaigns to help families in need. Examples of funding might include: a youth group's pro-life service project, financial support for young families in the community, a seminar on restorative justice and the death penalty, materials for advance care planning, or materials for a grief support group. This grant will support a variety of initiatives across the consistent life ethic.

If you are interested in applying for the Pro-Life Grant Program, please fill out the attached application linked below, or share it with leaders in your community. Please contact Kathryn Yanik, Director of Life Issues, at yanikk@adw.org with any questions.

Download the Pro-Life Grant Application Here

Project Rachel Ministry, An After Abortion Healing Ministry Seeks Volunteers

Project Rachel Ministry (PRM) is expanding our volunteer network! Our ministry will be expanding to a regional model, where volunteers will provide direct service to accompany mothers and fathers seeking healing after past abortions. Volunteers will commit to hosting a regional event (4-5 hours) several times per year. These events are focused on spiritual healing, and are pre-planned by the PRM team at The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. No formal experience or counseling degree is required for volunteers. We are looking for volunteers for both the English and Spanish branches.

Individuals should have a strong prayer life, a compassionate and non-judgmental spirit, and the ability to safeguard participants' confidentiality. Training will be provided. To learn more about the roles, responsibilities, and training, please join us at one of our information meetings:

Wed. May 11th 7:00pm-8:15pm (Virtual, hosted on MS Teams)

or

Sat. June 18th 9:00am-10:30am (In-person, location to be announced)

After attending one of these meetings, you can discern if our Lord is calling you to serve in this ministry. Please contact us at projectrachel@adw.org for more information.

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