

Dear Brother in Christ,

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

Ecumenical and Interreligious Activities Survey

Since *Unitatis Redintegratio* and *Nostra Aetate* were promulgated during the Second Vatican Council, dialogue between the Catholic Church and other religious traditions has grown substantially at the international, national, and local levels. In our archdiocese, Catholics only make up about 22% of the total population, and therefore, it is imperative that we seek to reach out to our neighbors of other religious traditions. This takes place at the regional level through the work of many organizations, as well as at the local level through relationships that parishes, chaplaincies, and other ministries have with other churches, ecclesial communities as well as non-Christian religions.

Father Charles Cortinovis, in his role as the Executive Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, coordinates these efforts on behalf of the archdiocese.

While the archdiocese is represented on many regional interfaith initiatives, there has not recently been an effort to discover what ecumenical and interreligious activities are currently happening at the parish, chaplaincy, and ministry levels.

In an effort to gather more information on the ecumenical and interreligious activity, I would ask that you or one of your staff members consider completing the brief survey linked <u>HERE</u> to help to inform Father Cortinovis as to what ecumenical and interreligious initiatives are currently happening in your parish.

Father Cortinovis is available to assist you if you are in need of support in this area, and to work with you to begin a new initiative or strengthen any ecumenical and/or interreligious contacts that you might have. He is assisted in this area by Dr. Jeannine Marino, the Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns.

Should you desire to contact either of them directly, Father Cortinovis can be reached at cortinovisc@adw.org or at (301) 853-4420, and Dr. Marino can be reached at marinoi@adw.org or at 301-452-5269.

CRIAC Relief Program for DC Parishes

Each year all of our District of Columbia parishes will need to reapply in order to obtain the financial relief that parish properties are entitled to receive under the D.C. Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Nonprofit Relief Program. See link <u>HERE</u> for details. The application period to receive reimbursement for a portion of the <u>CRIAC fee</u> on their monthly water bills began on September 1, 2021, and will remain open until August 31, 2022, but you are urged to apply as soon as possible.

Applying: Applying to the program can be done either online <u>HERE</u> or by submitting the application found <u>HERE</u>. If you use the paper application, please see linked <u>HERE</u> the attached sample for guidance. As part of the application, you will be asked to provide the most recent filing confirmation numbers for your parish's annual Exempt Use Report. The numbers can be found in the spreadsheet attached <u>HERE</u> under your parish's name.

Please give this matter your highest attention. The amount of money that can be saved from the CRIAC Relief Program can be quite significant.

Nearly all of our D.C. parishes were eligible last year and 30 applied and received relief, averaging \$6,883 per parish. Please also share this information with relevant parish staff. If you have any questions about the financial requirements, please contact Adrienne Willich, Executive Director of Parish and School Financial Operations, at WillichA@adw.org or (301) 853-5373, and direct other eligibility questions to Andy Rivas, Manager of Public Policy and Advocacy, at RivasA@adw.org or (202) 683-1721.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/ for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and cathstan.org and elipreg.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