



# Moderator of the Curia

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## The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Monsignor/Father,

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

### **Security Warning in Relation to Pending Dobbs Decision**

Federal authorities have issued warnings that churches and other facilities face a heightened threat environment. Meanwhile, in recent weeks there have been many acts of vandalism and property damage nationwide against pro-life pregnancy centers and Catholic churches in particular, including even the theft of a tabernacle and the Eucharist. There have also been incidents of disruptions to religious services. Some of our own archdiocesan facilities have been victimized. Now some pro-abortion rights groups have called for a “Night of Rage” when the Supreme Court issues its decision in the *Dobbs* case, which is expected sometime in the next two weeks. The USCCB has urged elected officials and law enforcement authorities to take action and the FBI is investigating.

This information is being shared with you so that you might increase your vigilance at your parishes and schools, including taking appropriate measures to ensure the security of the premises and especially the Blessed Sacrament. You may wish to revisit parish security protocols, ensure that your ushers are trained to handle any possible disturbances, check to make sure security cameras and systems and exterior lighting are properly functioning, and, as always, contact law enforcement to report any security incidents or safety concerns.

Should an individual or group cause a disruption in your church, they may also record it to post on social media to gain attention. If this happens, please do not confront the protesters. Instead, please handle with Christian charity and discretion and notify the police. If you should discover any vandalism, please report it to the police and notify the Moderator’s Office and Catholic Mutual at once.

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](#).

**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,

**Office of the Moderator of the Curia**