



## Chancellor and Executive Secretary 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 with you information as needed.

#### **World Mission Sunday – October 22**

Please see the message below from Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington:

*On October 21-22, the Universal Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. This global Eucharistic celebration for the Church's missions is an opportunity to remind our parishioners of their own call to be missionary disciples.*

*World Mission Sunday, organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies, is the only canonically mandated collection in the Church. This year's theme, "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" (Luke 24:13-35) reminds us that we live out our baptismal call of mission when we are witnesses to God's love and mercy. Pope Francis invites us to focus on three themes for World Mission Sunday: the Word transforming hardened hearts, the Eucharist as the source and summit of mission, and the joy of spreading the Good News.*

*For the past 201 years, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has extended its arms to support growing Churches globally, reaching across Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Last year, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the United States sent over \$23 million to more than 1,100 mission dioceses. This assistance bolsters the proclamation of the Gospel, the building of the Church, and service to the poor. Let us echo this spirit in our parishes, inspiring our congregations to contribute both prayer and sacrifice to this cause on World Mission Sunday.*

*Your role in echoing this call to your congregations is paramount.  
Your voice can be the spark that inspires the "hearts on fire, feet on the move" spirit that  
Pope Francis calls us to embody.*

*I am grateful for your commitment to the Church's missions in October and year-round. May  
the fire in our hearts continue to inspire our feet to move in service to God's mission.*

Materials to enhance your celebration of World Mission Sunday are available on the [Archdiocese's Office of Missions website](#). Additionally, attached below is Bishop Menjivar's letter for your community should you wish to share it with them in the manner you determine is best.

[Bishop Menjivar WMS to Parish 24.pdf](#)

Maeve Gilheney-Gallagher, our Global Solidarity Coordinator, can assist you further as you prepare your parish for the fullest celebration of this important day. She can be reached at [gallaghermc@adw.org](mailto:gallaghermc@adw.org).

### **Important Litigation Hold Notice from The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington Office of the General Counsel**

Earlier this year, Maryland passed legislation that revives historical claims for sexual abuse of minors that were previously time-barred. As the new law went into effect on October 1, the Archdiocese may receive abuse claims that occurred many years (or even decades) ago. The Archdiocese has already taken steps over the past few years to preserve relevant records.

Given prior efforts, we are asking you to take a few simple steps:

Firstly, please review the attached hold notice and ensure anyone in your parish who manages relevant records also reviews it.

[ADW MD 2023 Litigation Hold Notice \(Parish\).pdf](#)

Secondly, if you are aware of, or become aware of, any records related to allegations of abuse, please contact the Office of the General Counsel.

Thirdly, if you have any priest personnel records or sacramental records, preserve them.

Finally, continue to follow the existing Archdiocese Records Retention Policy, which requires all parishes to preserve all relevant documents related to sexual abuse allegations.

Additionally, as you may know, substantial efforts have also been made to identify and locate documents that may be related to abuse claims in response to prior subpoenas and litigation

holds. We do not expect parishes to have any relevant documents and you are not being asked to search your records for relevant documents. Simply follow the steps outlined above.

If you have any questions or concerns about this notice, please contact the Office of the General Counsel ([AnzideiC@adw.org](mailto:AnzideiC@adw.org) and [burkep@adw.org](mailto:burkep@adw.org)).

Thank you very much for your attention to this important message.

#### **Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website**

The archdiocesan website, [adw.org](http://adw.org) and [adw.org/es](http://adw.org/es), is updated regularly with current information for you to share with your community. Daily news and information about our parishes, schools, and ministries are also available at [cathstan.org](http://cathstan.org) and [elpreg.org](http://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, please know that you can email me at [FarrellT@adw.org](mailto:FarrellT@adw.org) or call my office line at 301-853-4507 or my cell at 202-531-4550.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

**Terence J. Farrell**

*Chancellor and Executive Secretary of the Curia*



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