

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:39 PM
Subject: Fw: Update Letter to Priests
Attachments: Liturgical Guidelines Coronavirus HW 03-27-2020.pdf

Here you go...

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 4:26 PM
Subject: Update Letter to Priests

Dear Brother Priests:

Today has been an extraordinary day of prayer with the Holy Father's *Urbi et Orbi* worldwide prayer and blessing for the coronavirus situation, and locally in our Diocese with the Day of Prayer and Penance. May these spiritual efforts stoke the spiritual fire of our hearts and in the hearts of the faithful.

Incidentally, the Pope's *Urbi et Orbi* prayer is available on the main page of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops web site (www.usccb.org) and will be rebroadcast this evening and his homily posted on various Catholic websites. You can also visit the web page of the Holy

See: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2020/3/27/uniti-in-preghiera.html>

I was also touched by the words of Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and President of Caritas Internationalis, in his reminder about the needs of so many during this coronavirus situation. I would encourage you to read his brief message: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-03/emergency-charity-cardinal-tagle-coronavirus-covid.html>.

I do have some information that I wish to share with you today.

FIRST, another inspiring day with an additional 11 priests who meet the eligibility criteria for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care taking part in the third PPE overview training and ZOOM conference call with the team of Dr. Marian Schuda, Fr. Mike Lumpe and Fr. Dean Mathewson. Right now 46 priests have stepped forward and participated in this Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training as part of our preparation for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care. Obviously we hope and pray that we will not have the level of pandemic that has struck other areas of the world, but from a sacramental standpoint it is good to be prepared.

As a priest, what should you do if you receive a call for a COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care situation at one of our hospitals? For Mount Carmel, Ohio Health (Riverside, Grant, Dublin) and OSU-Wexner the chaplains at those hospitals should be directly involved in those situations and this notification to chaplains should have been made internally at each hospital. But these situations are relatively new to everyone, these hospitals employ thousands of people, and so not everyone may be fully on board. Mount Carmel and OSU-Wexner already have priests identified and in place to respond to COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care calls -- even if it your parishioner, these two hospitals have priests already in place to respond; additional priests for Mount Carmel are also being discussed. Ohio Health system is relying on Catholic priests of the Diocese for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care, so if you get a call from Riverside, Grant, Dublin Methodist, Doctors, Grady Memorial, Berger, Hardin Memorial, Marion General, or another Ohio Health hospital, it will be up to the individual pastor/priest to take the call provided he has met the eligibility guidelines (under 70 years of age, health issues we have discussed) and participated in one of our PPE sessions or something similar conducted by a health facility. If you receive a call from a hospital outside of Franklin County (e.g. Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster; Adena Regional Medical Center, Chillicothe; Licking Memorial, Newark; Union Hospital, Dover; Genesis Healthcare, Zanesville; others) it will be up to the individual local pastor or local priests in these areas to respond to COVID-19 calls provided that you have met the eligibility requirements for our PPE training, and participated in a PPE session. If, in the future, you get overwhelmed with COVID-19 calls please call Mike Lumpe so that our PPE-trained priests can be deployed to assist you.

If you have not participated in our PPE training, or PPE training from a particular hospital, or because of age or health reasons you are not able to respond to a COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care calls, please call Mike Lumpe with your back-up plan to respond to these sacramental calls (e.g. neighboring priest whom you have already discussed COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental coverage and he meets the establish requirements and been through PPE training), or if you need assistance in coming up with a viable response plan.

Mike and Dean Mathewson are putting together a contact sheet for all of you; please make sure Mike has your latest and best 24-hour phone information. If you have any questions about this please contact Mike. Incidentally, please contact Mike if and when you get called out for a COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care situation so that we can keep track of these.

SECOND, as promised please find attached some additional liturgical guidelines for Holy Week and Easter. Please read these carefully and plan accordingly.

Also, plans are also underway for a Diocesan-wide Parish Mission to take place during the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. Father Michael Kelly will lead the Mission. Fr. Kelly serves as the Director of Spiritual Formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum and is a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These will be streamed in the evening on all our social media platforms and broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio. Final details will be forthcoming. Please be sure to share this information with your parishioners.

THIRD, Bill Davis has a few items for you; these should be shared with your bookkeepers:

1. Many of you have interest in where Ed Choice stands. As communicated to the Principals, the Ohio Legislature passed an important bill yesterday (3/25) that contains several provisions relating to education. Among these are a decision to freeze the EdChoice eligible school list from 2019-20, meaning that the new list with 1,200 schools will not be going into effect. The EdChoice traditional window now opens on April 1.
2. Several have asked about doing more payments either on-line through their bank account or EFT. This process is allowed, provided that proper documentation and controls are in place. You must retain copies of all invoices paid through one of these methods. These should be attached to your bank statement and bank reconciliation. Each invoice must be approved by someone other than the bookkeeper. Then the bank reconciliation must be reviewed by someone other than the bookkeeper, indicating all direct debits from the account were matched to the attached invoice. This provides the two level approval that we now have when we pay by check.
3. I had mentioned in an earlier communication to use Other Allowable Time Off to code hours needed to pay an hourly employee their full pay. If this is not available to you, please use the Other earnings code which should be available to everyone. If you can not locate it, please e-mail me and I will make it available to you.

FOURTH, *The Catholic Times* wants to tell the story of the Diocese and its people, especially now: positive accounts that are slices of life showing how clergy and laity are reaching out, serving God, and ministering to one another in both creative and safe ways during this pandemic, how the Church is boldly taking on the challenges we face. All of us together are the living sign of this, and there are many stories worth telling these days. Contact Editor Doug Bean at dbean@columbuscatholic.org or 614-989-2710 (cell).

As we head into the weekend and our Sunday celebrations via live-stream and Catholic radio, I am mindful of the words of the psalmist: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.** Let us cling to these words in these challenging times.

Fraternally,
Bishop Brennan



LITURGICAL UPDATES & GUIDELINES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: HOLY WEEK & EASTER

On March 19, the *Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments* released directives (Prot. N. 153/20) from Pope Francis concerning the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. In accord with that document, Bishop Brennan has decided on the following guidelines for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter in the Diocese of Columbus.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The Vatican has granted all priests in an exceptional manner the faculty to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper privately (without the presence of other people) in a suitable place (day chapel/private chapel). You will note that this is granted only for Holy Thursday, not for the Good Friday Liturgy nor the Easter Vigil.
- The Congregation also gave some guidelines for the celebration of the Triduum during these extraordinary circumstances. When live-streaming liturgies, you may bring together the bare minimum of liturgical ministers necessary to assist the priest. These might include a deacon, lector, server, cantor and/or musician (organist). Keep in mind the total number of persons in the Church for any single gathering such as these should be less than the state guidelines (currently 10) and fulfill the expectations of social distancing. Only those needed for the proper celebration of the liturgy should be included rather than an attempt to involve more people.
- Given the complexities and recommending that you focus your attention on Easter Sunday, we strongly suggest uniting yourself (and parishioners) to these liturgies with the Holy Father from Rome or from St. Joseph's Cathedral rather than live streaming parish celebrations of the Good Friday Liturgy and Easter Vigil. While this is a not a prohibition, it is a strong suggestion.
- As you know, priests and deacons who cannot unite themselves to the Liturgies of the Sacred Triduum are to pray the appropriate hours in the Breviary: Evening Prayer on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and the Office of Readings for Easter in place of the Easter Vigil.
- Bishop Brennan will celebrate the **Chrism Mass** on Holy Thursday morning in a non-public liturgy. The Mass will be broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio and live-streamed. While the time is tentatively set for 9:00 AM on Thursday, April 9, 2020, please watch for forthcoming updates. The blessed oils will be regionally distributed in a manner yet to be determined. Plans are being discussed for a celebration later this year, hopefully on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart or its vigil (June 18 or 19, 2020) in which the renewal of priestly vows will be done.

- In order to assist the faithful to enter into Holy Week more fully, the Office for Divine Worship will have a book of prayers, devotions and activities available online prior to Holy Week. The Office of Social Concerns and the Marriage and Family Life Office have also contributed to the book. The book will be accessible via the Diocesan website at [liturgical and prayer resources](#). Plans are also underway for a Diocesan-wide Parish Mission to take place during the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. Father Michael Kelly will lead the Mission. Fr. Kelly serves as the Director of Spiritual Formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum and is a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. It will be streamed in the evening on all our social media platforms and broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio. Details will be forthcoming. Please be sure to share this information with your parishioners.

NOTES FOR SPECIFIC DAYS OF THE SACRED TRIDUUM

- **Holy Thursday**- The faculty to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper privately (without the presence of other people) in a suitable place (i.e. in the church or in a day chapel) has been granted in an exceptional manner to all priests. The Mass may be celebrated or concelebrated observing the guidelines for social distancing and hygiene.

Please note the following changes:

1. Washing of the Feet is to be omitted.
2. The procession with the Blessed Sacrament is to be omitted.
3. The Blessed Sacrament is to remain in the church in the tabernacle.

Priests and deacons who are unable to celebrate Mass are to pray that day's Vespers.

- **Good Friday**- Given the complexities, it is suggested that other personal devotional exercises such as the Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc. be undertaken this day. If the Passion of the Lord is celebrated, (noting the considerations listed above), the following are to occur:

1. Only the celebrant is to kiss the cross for the Adoration of the Cross.
2. In the Universal Prayer an intention must be added for the coronavirus victims;
For those suffering from the current pandemic.

Deacon or lay minister:

Let us pray, dearly beloved,
to God the Father almighty,
that he may extend his hand in mercy
to all those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Silent Prayer

Priest:

Almighty ever-living God,
heal those who are ill,
comfort those who mourn,
give solace to all who are afraid and alone,
and protect those who are providing medical care.

Make us instruments of your peace
among our brothers and sisters.
In your mercy, alleviate our fears
and eliminate this scourge,
so that we may come together again
to give you praise and to build your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- **Holy Saturday-The Easter Vigil-** The Initiation of the Elect and Candidates to the Sacraments will not take place. At this time, no date is selected due to the unknown status of the coronavirus pandemic. The Vigil should not begin before dark. In most parts of our area around 8 PM should be fine. Again, given the complexities, it is recommended that you and your parishioners join in the broadcast of the Easter Vigil from Rome or from St. Joseph Cathedral (details to follow). Priests and deacons may to unite themselves with the Vigil through the praying of the Office of Readings for Easter. If the Easter Vigil is celebrated, (noting the considerations listed above), the following are to occur:
 1. The preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted.
 2. The procession is omitted.
 3. The Paschal Candle is lit and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is sung.
 4. The Responsorial psalm may be omitted after the readings from the Old Testament in favor of silence.
 5. For the Baptismal liturgy, only the Renewal of the Baptismal Promises is necessary.
- **Easter Sunday-**No specific guidelines have come forth regarding the celebration of Easter Sunday Masses. The Paschal Candle is lit before Mass, which is celebrated in the usual manner. All priests are encouraged to offer Mass on Easter Sunday either privately or for streaming.
- For the purpose of live-streaming or other broadcast, you may include musicians in a very limited way – a cantor and organist or the equivalent. Again, keep in mind the total number of persons in the Church for any single gathering should be less than the state guidelines (10) and fulfill the expectations of social distancing. It is suggested that any music being used should be familiar to the congregation.

*Remember that copyright laws exist if you are using music and live streaming a liturgy or Mass. Many publishers are giving free rights. If you have questions, contact the Office for Divine Worship and we can tell you if the music you are using is covered under that publisher.