

**From:** Fr. Michael J. Lumpe  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 4:31 PM  
**Subject:** Update to Priests from Bishop Brennan  
**Attachments:** Hospital Info - updated 2020-03-23.pdf; USCCB - 20-078 (1).pdf; USCCB - 20074 (1).pdf

Dear Brother Priests:

I know that many of you are on e-mail overload with your parishioners and others, so to help in this regard I plan on communicating with you once a day around 4:00 p.m. (I'm a little late today) to keep you apprised of any issues that need addressing. Should something of critical importance need to be communicated to you outside of this timeframe I'm sure you will understand.

**First of all**, many of you have expressed an interest in helping out with hospital ministry and "end of life" sacramental care to COVID-19 patients. I truly appreciate your coming forward. Please know that there are some COVID-19 criteria in this regard:

- You are 69 years of age or younger
- You do not have a compromised immune system as a result of chemotherapy, radiation or other treatments, or a medical condition resulting in an immune deficiency
- You do not have heart, lung or kidney issues
- You are not diabetic
- You are not ill – especially with a cold, flu, fever, or anything contagious
- There is an apparent shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), especially clothing – only small, medium and large sizes are widely available right now so you must be able to fit into one of these general size categories
- If you have a beard, goatee, moustache or long sideburns you will need to shave it off so that the mask you may be asked to wear gets a full and proper seal with your skin

Please contact Mike Lumpe via e-mail so that he can (1) get a list compiled with your name and cell phone number, and (2) begin to arrange for PPE overview training and Q&A with Dr. Marian Schuda (via Zoom conference call). Mike and Dean Mathewson are working with Dr. Schuda and the three major Columbus hospitals to coordinate getting a group of priests ready for COVID-19 hospital ministry. This effort also includes volunteer priests for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental calls in hospitals outside of Franklin County.

For now, COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental calls will be handled in any **Mount Carmel System Hospital** by the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. In addition, the plan that is in the works now is for similar calls at **OSU-Wexner** to be handled by the Paulist Fathers; this plan is still being finalized. Even with these initial responses we need to get a group of priests ready for COVID-19 "end of life" sacramental care in other hospital systems in Franklin County (**Ohio Health, Children's**) and throughout the Diocese, so please contact Mike Lumpe to help get this in place.

Attached please find a document concerning non-coronavirus and coronavirus hospital guidelines for priests. These are subject to change at any time given new or updated CDC, State of Ohio or particular hospital guidelines.

**Secondly**, with the Sacrament of Reconciliation not being available as we would normally like to offer, now is the time for us to Catechize the faithful; the attached memorandum from Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, contains a wonderful resource to share: *The Care of Souls and the Forgiveness of Sins During This Pandemic*. This comes from the USCCB Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs and is a wonderful aid for us and for the faithful in addressing two recent letters from the Apostolic Penitentiary:

+ *Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic*, 20.03.2020

and

+ *Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic*, 20.03.2020.

There is also a Zenit article quoting Pope Francis from a recent homily: <https://zenit.org/articles/cant-go-to-confession-pope-says-talk-to-god-your-father-ask-forgiveness-full-text-of-morning-homily/>

**Third**, while the celebration of public Masses are cancelled, along with parish and school activities because of the coronavirus pandemic, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter cannot, say the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. Please review the attachment from Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary of the U.S. Conference of catholic Bishops, and Cardinal Sarah, to guide you in planning liturgies in your parishes mindful of the need to keep them very simple as you have been and without a congregation.

At this time I am planning on celebrating the Chrism Mass so that we can get the oils blessed and distributed to the Deaneries for further distribution to parishes. This is subject to change given any number of circumstances, but I am still planning on having a closed celebration of the Chrism Mass that can be live-streamed for you and the faithful to watch.

In addition, with all that has been going on I was asked if on certain days during Lent the Mass "Mary, Health of the Sick" could be celebrated. I had already given that permission, and I encourage all of you to turn to Our Lady praying for her help and intervention. You may also use the prayers of the Mass "For the Sick" -- number 45 in the Missal.

**Fourth**, I mentioned at the end of the Presbyteral Council that the work we began with the Convocation in terms of planning continues. That ongoing planning now become critical and time-sensitive because there are many uncertainties about our emergence from this situation. I will be asking the Deans to work with Deacon Don Poirier regarding our Mass Schedule. Please be responsive to your Dean.

**Fifth**, I invite you and the faithful entrusted to your care to join our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for two occasions of prayer this week:

<https://zenit.org/articles/holy-father-calls-on-world-to-pray-together-on-march-25/>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/pope-calls-for-christians-to-unite-in-prayer-for-end-to-pandemic.html>

**Finally**, I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done and your flexibility to the ever-changing situations that we must face together. I pray daily for each and every one of you in your pastoral ministry. Let's continue to pray for one another.

Fraternally,

Bishop Robert Brennan

**“End of Life” Hospital Visitation for Priests During the COVID-19 Pandemic – 03/23/2020**  
***(subject to change given ever-changing parameters of the State and of hospitals)***

**Changes to hospitals visits became effective Friday, March 20, 2020.** In ongoing discussions with the major hospital systems in Columbus – Mount Carmel, Ohio Health, OSU Wexner Medical Center – visitors to hospitals are not permitted with the exception of “end of life” care as it is being called. This limitation is being carried out by every hospital in the State of Ohio.

**Right now “end of life” visits fall under one of two categories:**

- (1) Those who DO NOT have coronavirus and need end of life care.**
- (2) Those who DO have coronavirus and need end of life care.**

**FOR ALL NON-CORONAVIRUS “END OF LIFE” SITUATIONS:**

Each of the three major hospital systems in Columbus are doing things slightly different with regard to admission of priests to administer the last sacraments. Additional measures may take place as these situations evolve and change on a daily basis. But for now, as you arrive at the hospital, please say “I am here to give end of life care to a patient” (cancer, heart, etc.)

- (1) Please wear your clerics to the hospital;
- (2) Please bring a photo ID;
- (3) You will have your temperature taken upon arrival, and will be asked several health questions as would anyone else entering the hospital. Please be patient and cooperative as the hospital staff members have a job to do per new State of Ohio protocols to curtail the spread of the coronavirus and to protect the health of all patients and hospital staff members.
- (4) You may be escorted to the patients’ room by a chaplain or other hospital staff member.
- (5) **Bring your holy oil AND cotton swabs (e.g. Q-tip) or cotton balls** to apply the holy oil to the person. When administering oil on the forehead and palms of the hands please make sure that you do not place the used end of a Q-tip or cotton ball back into your oil stock. Use the cotton ball or both ends of the Q-Tip – e.g. one end for the forehead, the other end for the palms of the hands. Bring a resealable sandwich-size bag with you to place the used cotton ball or Q-Tip in the bag when finished, seal the bag, then burn the used cotton ball or Q-Tip outdoors when you arrive back at the parish.
- (6) When you leave the room wash and sanitize your hands thoroughly, along with the exterior of your oil stock and your ritual book.
- (7) If you are asked by hospital staff to undertake any additional measures before departing the hospital, please cooperate fully with them.

**FOR ALL COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS “END OF LIFE” SITUATIONS:**

**In general, you should not respond to a COVID-19 coronavirus “end of life” care call if:**

- You are 70 years of age or older

- You have a compromised immune system as a result of chemotherapy, radiation or other treatments, or if you have a medical condition resulting in an immune deficiency
- You have heart, lung or kidney issues
- You are diabetic
- You are ill – especially with a cold, flu, fever, or anything contagious

**Mount Carmel Health System specific:**

**At this time the priests of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception are fully trained for this kind of response given the hospital ministry of their congregation. They will be called upon by MC staff at all MC hospitals. This has the potential to change given the scale of the pandemic.**

**OSU-Wexner specific:**

**While still being finalized, similar “end of life” sacramental emergencies at OSU-Wexner are planned to be handled by the Paulist Fathers.**

**For all other hospitals requesting priests for COVID-19 “end of life” care – the necessity of wearing PPE (personal protective equipment):**

- There is an apparent nationwide shortage of PPE, especially clothing – only small, medium and large sizes are available. If these do not fit you do not go in.
  - If you have a beard, goatee, moustache or long sideburns please shave it off so that the mask you may be instructed to wear gets a full and proper seal with your skin.
- (1) If the person you are going to administer the last sacraments has the coronavirus you will be instructed on how to “gown up” with various levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) which may include: gown, gloves, face mask, and perhaps a face shield. These measures are designed to protect you and to curtail spread of the coronavirus so please cooperate with the health and safety measures (“personal protection equipment”) as requested by the hospital staff.
  - (2) After you leave the patient’s room you will be instructed on how to remove your protective clothing following a step-by-step procedure, so follow instructions of the attending hospital staff member(s) it to the letter in order to protect yourself and to curtail the spread of the coronavirus.
  - (3) When you leave the room wash and sanitize your hands thoroughly, along with the exterior of your oil stock and your ritual book.
  - (4) If you are asked by hospital staff to undertake any additional measures before departing the hospital, please cooperate fully with them.

**Throughout the Diocese**

I am not ignoring the needs and workloads of the priests and medical centers outside of Franklin County. So much of this depends on where coronavirus patients are sent. If priests in outlying areas of our Diocese are inundated with coronavirus patients we will send priests to assist in administering the last sacraments – there is no need for you to be overworked or overburdened in this regard, and I hope that we can count on one another to back each other up and support each other in hospital ministry.



## Office of the General Secretary

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Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
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*Associate General Secretaries*

### MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary *gbb*

Date: March 22, 2020

Subject: The Care of Souls and the Forgiveness of Sins During This Pandemic

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Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

As you are aware, the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See released two statements recently addressing the current coronavirus pandemic:

- *Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic, 20.03.2020*

and

- *Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic, 20.03.2020.*

I take this opportunity to convey to you the enclosed memorandum from Reverend Michael Fuller, Executive Director for the Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs, conveying the resource *The Care of Souls and the Forgiveness of Sins During This Pandemic*, which the Secretariat developed as an aid to you in addressing the two aforementioned documents from the Apostolic Penitentiary.

Thank you for your kind attention to this memorandum.



## Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs

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### MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Rev. Michael JK Fuller, S.T.D.,  
Executive Director for the Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs

Date: March 22, 2020

Re: The Care of Souls and the Forgiveness of Sins During This Pandemic

Recently the Apostolic Penitentiary released two statements addressing the current pandemic:

- *Note from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic, 20.03.2020*

and

- *Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic, 20.03.2020.*

Attached to this memo is a resource produced by the Secretariat of Doctrine and Canonical Affairs, and reviewed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Chairman of the Committee on Doctrine and Bishop Robert P. Deeley, Chairman of the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance.

The attached resource, *The Care of Souls and the Forgiveness of Sins During This Pandemic*, was developed as an aid to you in addressing the two documents from the Apostolic Penitentiary. Please feel free to share, adapt, or amend it as you see fit.

## *THE CARE OF SOULS AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS DURING THIS PANDEMIC*

The necessary and prudent measures enacted by government officials to prevent and slow infection rates during this current pandemic come with a great many sacrifices. As in all areas of life, these measures also affect the Church in her mission for the care of souls. The faithful have been overwhelmingly understanding in adapting to the restrictions of public gatherings and the temporary cessation of public Masses by attending Eucharistic celebrations virtually and participating in spiritual communion.

Another crucial aspect of the spiritual life is the forgiveness of sins, which is ordinarily accomplished through individual and integral confession to a priest followed by individual absolution. The current pandemic and the measures taken to combat it make this very difficult. Therefore, the following instructions have been issued by the Holy See (Apostolic Penitentiary):

- the diocesan bishop is to indicate to priests and penitents the prudent attentions to be adopted in the individual celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation. These should include assuring that proper precautions are made in terms of appropriate distancing, that it occurs in a well-ventilated area, such as outside the confessional, the use of protective masks, and while always assuring protection of the seal of confession. Governmental guidelines limiting the number of people who may gather in the same public place, including a church or chapel, need to be adhered to as well.
- the diocesan bishop can, in the current situation, determine that the circumstances in his territory warrant the use of the third form of the Rite of Penance, often called “general absolution.” However, this form necessitates a gathering of people. Given restrictions on public gatherings, the diocesan bishop could grant permission for those areas where such a gathering is already in place, such as in a hospital ward “where the infected faithful are in danger of death.” This would require some explanation on the part of the priest to the penitents as to how they can participate in the rite. It would also require that all prudent measures be made so that the penitents can hear the absolution (such as a public address system).

However, given public restrictions, the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation with either individual or general absolution may not be possible. This will make some of the faithful anxious, especially during this Lenten season of penance.

To help in this, the Holy See, through the Apostolic Penitentiary, has offered two recourses for the faithful:



a) “Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by *votum confessionis*, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).”

- perfect contrition requires
  - the love of God
  - the sincere desire for forgiveness
  - the ardent commitment to receive the sacrament of reconciliation when available

b) “The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

- this is a time of suffering, especially for those who have contracted COVID-19. As such, it may be a time for us to “rediscover ‘the same redemptive suffering of Christ’ (*Salvifici doloris*, 30).” Trusting in Christ,
- a *Plenary indulgence* is “granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.”
- “Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (*Jn 15: 13*), will obtain the same gift of the *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions.”
  - An indulgence is “the expression of the Church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when - in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those

of Our Lady and the saints - she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace” (John Paul II, *General Audience, September 29, 1999*).

- A plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin (CCC, 1471).

Promotion and catechesis on these remedies during the absence of the sacrament of reconciliation can be a source of great consolation for all the faithful. A short catechesis on how the faithful can participate in both the indulgence and the act of perfect contrition will be coming shortly to the USCCB website [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

For further reference, please see:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320d.html>

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html>



## ***Office of the General Secretary***

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*Associate General Secretaries*

### **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary *ABB*

Date: March 20, 2020

Subject: Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments  
Decree In time of COVID-19

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Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

I take this opportunity to convey to you the attached decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments received this morning through the courtesy of the Apostolic Nunciature as regards the celebration of the Paschal Triduum.

Please scroll down within the PDF for the translations in English and Spanish.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this memorandum.



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 153/20

**DECRETO**  
**In tempo di Covid-19**

Nel difficile tempo che stiamo vivendo a motivo della pandemia di Covid-19, considerando il caso di impedimento a celebrare la liturgia comunitariamente in chiesa come da indicazioni dei Vescovi per i territori di loro competenza, sono giunte a questa Congregazione istanze concernenti le prossime festività pasquali. Al riguardo si offrono indicazioni generali ed alcuni suggerimenti ai Vescovi.

**1 – Circa la data della Pasqua.** Cuore dell'anno liturgico, la Pasqua non è una festa come le altre: celebrata nell'arco di tre giorni, il Triduo Pasquale, preceduta dalla Quaresima e coronata dalla Pentecoste, non può essere trasferita.

**2 – La Messa crismale.** Valutando il caso concreto nei diversi Paesi, il Vescovo ha facoltà di rimandarla a data posteriore.

**3 – Indicazioni per il Triduo Pasquale.**

Dove l'autorità civile ed ecclesiale ha dato restrizioni, per il Triduo Pasquale ci si attenga a quanto segue.

I Vescovi daranno indicazioni, concordate con la Conferenza Episcopale, affinché nella chiesa cattedrale e nelle chiese parrocchiali, pur senza la partecipazione fisica dei fedeli, il Vescovo e i parroci celebrino i misteri liturgici del Triduo Pasquale, avvisando i fedeli dell'ora d'inizio in modo che possano unirsi in preghiera nelle proprie abitazioni. In questo caso sono di aiuto i mezzi di comunicazione telematica in diretta, non registrata.

La Conferenza Episcopale e le singole diocesi non manchino di offrire sussidi per aiutare la preghiera familiare e personale.

Il **Giovedì Santo**, nelle chiese cattedrali e parrocchiali, in misura della reale possibilità stabilita da chi di dovere, i sacerdoti della parrocchia possono concelebbrare la Messa nella Cena del Signore; si concede eccezionalmente a tutti i sacerdoti la facoltà di celebrare in questo giorno, in luogo adatto, la Messa senza il popolo. La lavanda dei piedi, già facoltativa, si omette. Al termine della Messa nella Cena del Signore si omette la processione e il Santissimo Sacramento si custodisca nel tabernacolo. I sacerdoti che non hanno la possibilità di celebrare la Messa pregheranno invece i Vespri (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Il **Venerdì Santo**, nelle chiese cattedrali e parrocchiali, in misura della reale possibilità stabilita da chi di dovere, il Vescovo / il parroco celebra la Passione del Signore. Nella preghiera universale il Vescovo diocesano avrà cura di stabilire una speciale intenzione per i malati, i morti, chi si trova in situazione di smarrimento (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

**Domenica di Pasqua. Veglia Pasquale:** la si celebra solo nelle chiese cattedrali e parrocchiali, in misura della reale possibilità stabilita da chi di dovere. Per l' "Inizio della veglia o lucernario" si omette l'accensione del fuoco, si accende il cero e, omessa la processione, si esegue l'annunzio pasquale (*Exsultet*). Segue la "Liturgia della parola". Per la "Liturgia battesimale", soltanto si rinnovano le promesse battesimali (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). Quindi la "Liturgia eucaristica".

Quanti in nessun modo possono unirsi alla Veglia Pasquale celebrata in chiesa, pregano l'Ufficio delle Letture indicato per la Domenica di Pasqua (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Per i monasteri, i seminari, le comunità religiose, decida il Vescovo diocesano.

Le espressioni di pietà popolare e le processioni che arricchiscono i giorni della Settimana Santa e del Triduo Pasquale, a giudizio del Vescovo diocesano potranno essere trasferite in altri giorni convenienti, ad es. il 14 e 15 settembre.

De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.

Dalla Sede della Congregazione per il Culto Divino e la Disciplina dei Sacramenti, 19 marzo 2020, solennità di san Giuseppe, Patrono della Chiesa universale.

*Robert Card. Sarah*

Robert Card. Sarah  
Prefetto



+ *Arthur Roche*

✠ Arthur Roche  
Arcivescovo Segretario



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 153/20

**DÉCRET**  
**En temps de Covid-19**

Dans la période difficile que nous vivons à cause de la pandémie de Covid-19, compte tenu du cas d'empêchement de célébrer communautairement la liturgie dans l'église, comme les Évêques l'ont indiqué pour les territoires placés sous leur juridiction, des demandes concernant les prochaines festivités Pascales sont parvenues à cette Congrégation. Des indications générales et quelques suggestions sont offertes aux Évêques à ce sujet.

**1 – A propos de la date de Pâques.** Cœur de l'année liturgique, Pâques n'est pas une fête comme les autres: célébrée sur trois jours - le Triduum pascal - précédée du Carême et couronnée par la Pentecôte, elle ne peut être transférée.

**2 – La Messe chrismale.** En tenant compte de chaque cas concret dans les différents pays, l'Évêque a la faculté de la reporter à une date ultérieure.

**3 – Indications pour le Triduum pascal.**

Lorsque l'autorité civile et ecclésiastique a établi des restrictions, on observe ce qui suit pour le Triduum pascal.

Les Évêques donneront des indications, en accord avec la Conférence épiscopale, afin que dans l'église cathédrale et dans les églises paroissiales, même sans la participation physique des fidèles, l'Évêque et les curés célèbrent les mystères liturgiques du Triduum Pascal, en informant les fidèles de l'heure du début des célébrations afin qu'ils puissent s'unir à la prière dans leurs propres maisons. Dans ce cas, les moyens de communication télématiques en direct, et non pas enregistrés, sont utiles.

La Conférence Épiscopale et les diocèses ne devraient pas manquer d'offrir des suggestions en vue d'aider la prière familiale et personnelle.

Le **Jeudi Saint**, dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend, les prêtres peuvent concélébrer la messe de la Cène du Seigneur; tous les prêtres ont exceptionnellement la faculté de célébrer en ce jour, dans un endroit approprié, la messe sans peuple. Le lavement des pieds, déjà facultatif, est omis. À la fin de la messe de la Cène du Seigneur, on omet la procession, et le Saint-Sacrement est conservé dans le tabernacle. Les prêtres qui n'ont pas la possibilité de célébrer la Messe prieront plutôt les vêpres (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Le **Vendredi Saint**, dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend, l'Évêque / le curé célèbre la Passion du Seigneur. Dans la prière universelle, l'Évêque diocésain veillera à établir une intention particulière pour les malades, les défunts, et ceux qui se trouvent dans une situation de désarroi (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

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**Dimanche de Pâques. Veillée Pascale:** elle n'est célébrée que dans les cathédrales et les églises paroissiales, dans la mesure où cela est réellement possible au jugement de ceux de qui cela dépend. Pour le "début de la Veillée ou Lucernaire", on omet d'allumer le feu, on allume le cierge pascal et, en omettant la procession, on procède à l'annonce de la Pâque (*Exsultet*). Puis a lieu la "Liturgie de la Parole". Pour la "Liturgie baptismale", seules les promesses baptismales sont renouvelées (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). Ensuite, on célèbre la «Liturgie eucharistique».

Ceux qui ne peuvent en aucun cas se joindre à la Veillée Pascale célébrée à l'église, prient l'Office des Lectures prescrit pour le Dimanche de Pâques (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Pour les monastères, les séminaires et les communautés religieuses, l'Évêque diocésain décidera.

Les expressions de la piété populaire et les processions qui enrichissent les jours de la Semaine Sainte et du Triduum Pascal, au jugement de l'Évêque diocésain, peuvent être transférées à d'autres jours convenables, par ex. les 14 et 15 septembre.

De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.

De la Congrégation pour le Culte Divin et la Discipline des Sacrements, le 19 mars 2020, solennité de saint Joseph, Patron de l'Église universelle.

Robert Card. Sarah  
Préfet

✠ Arthur Roche  
Archevêque Secrétaire



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. N. 153/20

**DECREE**  
**In time of Covid-19**

During this difficult time through which we are living because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and considering the impediment to the community celebration of the liturgy in church as per the direction of Bishops for their territories, a number of queries have come to this Congregation concerning the imminent celebration of Easter. In this regard, the following general indications are offered along with some suggestions for Bishops.

1 – **Concerning the date of Easter.** Easter is the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter Triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time.

2 – **The Chrism Mass.** Having evaluated the concrete situation in the different countries, the Bishop has the faculty to postpone it to a later date.

3 – **Indications for the Paschal Triduum.**

Wherever the civil and ecclesiastical authorities have put restrictions in place, the Sacred Triduum must be celebrated in the following way:

Bishops will give indications, which have been agreed with the Episcopal Conference, so that, in the Cathedral and parish churches, though without the physical participation of the faithful, the Bishop and parish priest(s) can celebrate the liturgical mysteries of the Paschal Triduum. The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful.

The Episcopal Conference and individual dioceses will see to it that resources are provided to support family and personal prayer.

**Holy Thursday.** In Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the priest(s) of the parish can celebrate the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The faculty to celebrate Mass on this day in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests. The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose is to be omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle. Priests who are unable to celebrate Mass should instead pray Vespers of the day (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).



**Good Friday**, in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible, the Bishop/Parish Priest will celebrate the Passion of the Lord. In the Universal Prayer, the Bishop will see to it that there is a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 314 n. 13).

### **Easter Sunday**

**The Easter Vigil:** Is to be celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches, where and in the measure that there is a real possibility of doing so, established by the one responsible. At "The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium" the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The "Liturgy of the Word" then takes place. For the "Baptismal Liturgy" the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises" alone is necessary (cf. *Missale Romanum*, pag. 371, n. 55). The "Liturgy of the Eucharist" then follows.

Those who have absolutely no possibility of uniting themselves to the Paschal Vigil celebrated in a church should pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Decisions regarding monasteries, seminaries and religious communities shall be made by the Diocesan Bishop.

Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop.

By mandate of the Supreme Pontiff, for the year 2020 only.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 19 March 2020, on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

Robert Card. SARAH  
Prefect

✠ Arthur ROCHE  
Archbishop Secretary



Prot. N. 153/20

**DECRETO**  
**En tiempo de Covid-19**

En el difícil tiempo que estamos viviendo a causa de la pandemia del Covid-19, considerando el impedimento para celebrar la liturgia comunitariamente en la iglesia según lo indicado por los obispos para los territorios bajo su jurisdicción, han llegado a esta Congregación peticiones concernientes a las próximas fiestas pascales. En este sentido, se ofrecen indicaciones generales y algunas sugerencias a los Obispos.

1 – **Sobre la fecha de la Pascua.** La Pascua, corazón del año litúrgico, no es una fiesta como las demás: celebrada durante tres días, el Triduo Pascual, precedida por la Cuaresma y coronada por Pentecostés, no puede ser trasladada.

2 – **La Misa crismal.** El Obispo, valorando el caso concreto en los diversos países, tiene la facultad para posponerla a una fecha posterior.

3 – **Indicaciones para el Triduo Pascual.**

Donde la autoridad civil y eclesial ha establecido restricciones, se siga lo siguiente.

Los Obispos darán indicaciones, de acuerdo con la Conferencia Episcopal, para que en la iglesia catedral y en las iglesias parroquiales, incluso sin la participación física de los fieles, el Obispo y los párrocos celebren los misterios litúrgicos del Triduo Pascual, avisando a los fieles la hora del inicio, de modo que puedan unirse en oración desde sus propias casas. En este caso son de gran ayuda los medios de comunicación telemática en directo, no grabados.

La Conferencia Episcopal y cada una de las diócesis no dejen de ofrecer subsidios para ayudar en la oración familiar y personal.

El **Jueves Santo**, en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete, los sacerdotes de la parroquia pueden celebrar la Misa en la Cena del Señor; se concede excepcionalmente a todos los sacerdotes la facultad de celebrar en este día la Misa sin el pueblo, en un lugar adecuado. El lavatorio de los pies, que es facultativo, se omite. Al final de la Misa en la Cena del Señor se omite la procesión y el Santísimo Sacramento se reserva en el sagrario. Los sacerdotes que no tienen la posibilidad de celebrar la Misa rezarán las Vísperas (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

El **Viernes Santo**, en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete, el Obispo/el párroco celebra la Pasión del Señor. En la oración universal el Obispo diocesano se encargará de establecer una especial intención por los enfermos, los muertos, quien ha sufrido alguna pérdida (cf. *Missale Romanum*, p. 314, n.13).

**Domingo de Pascua. Vigilia Pascual:** ésta se celebra solo en las iglesias catedrales y parroquiales, en la medida de la posibilidad real establecida por aquellos a quienes compete. Para el “Inicio de la vigilia o lucernario” se omite el fuego, se enciende el cirio y, omitida la procesión, se hace el pregón pascual (*Exsultet*). Sigue la “Liturgia de la Palabra”. En la “Liturgia bautismal” solo se renuevan las promesas bautismales (cf. *Missale Romanum*, p. 371, n. 55). Posteriormente la “Liturgia eucarística”.

Para quienes no pueden unirse a la Vigilia Pascual celebrada en la iglesia, recen el Oficio de Lectura indicado para el Domingo de Pascua (cf. *Liturgia Horarum*).

Para los monasterios, seminarios y comunidades religiosas, decida el Obispo diocesano.

Las expresiones de piedad popular y las procesiones que enriquecen los días de la Semana Santa y del Triduo Pascual, a juicio del Obispo diocesano podrán ser trasladadas a otros días convenientes, por ejemplo, el 14 y 15 de septiembre.

*De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020.*

En la Sede de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos,  
20 de marzo de 2020.

Robert Card. Sarah  
Prefecto

✠ Arthur Roche  
Arzobispo Secretario