



DECREE

EXTENDING MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Whereas the Governor of Oregon, on the 23rd of March 2020, issued Executive Order 20-12, directing “to the maximum extent possible, individuals stay at home or at their place of residence” until further notice;

Whereas the President of the United States, on the 31st of March 2020, issued *Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 30 Days to Slow the Spread* continuing to advise staying home and limiting social gatherings to ten persons or less for at least the month of April;

Whereas it is the duty of the diocesan bishop as pastor to be concerned for all of the faithful entrusted to his care (c. 383 §1) and to act with charity toward all (c. 383 §3-4);

Further to the measures enacted on the 12th and 16th of March 2020, with all the reasons listed therein remaining applicable;

I hereby decree, in virtue of my duty to direct, promote, and guard the liturgical life including the celebration of the sacraments (c. 835 §1), that the suspension of all public Masses previously decreed is extended until further notice.

Therefore, in virtue of canon 87 §1 and for the reasons expressed above and previously, all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and others actually present in the Archdiocese remain dispensed until further notice from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation (c. 1247).

All, nonetheless, are bound to keep holy the Sabbath by abstaining “from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body” (c. 1247) and by “devoting themselves to prayer for a suitable time” (c. 1248 §2).

I order that this decree and dispensation be made known to all concerned, especially pastors and administrators, who are to be attentive, also, to all existing and forthcoming pastoral guidelines.

This decree and dispensation shall take effect immediately and remain in force until revoked.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon on this 6th of April 2020, everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample, J.C.L.
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

Sr. Veronica Schueler, F.S.E.
Chancellor

