



May 26, 2017

Friday of the 6th Week of Easter

To all Pastors, Pastoral Associates, School Chaplains, School Principals, and Diocesan Staff:

As the Bishop of Madison, I am entrusted with the sacred duty for the care of souls, i.e., cura animarum, in our beloved diocese. Chief among the offices entrusted to me, and one I take very seriously as a successor of the Apostles, is that of preaching the Gospel and the ministry of the Word of God. I strive to teach this truth, faithfully and clearly, in all I do, and by extension, ask the same of all who cooperate with me. This ministry is the primary way I invite others to know, love, and serve Our Lord, in truth, as revealed through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and also through the truth of our human ecology that is written on our hearts and in the order of all creation. It is in this truth that we find our unity; unity with the one Triune God and the unity that is communion with one another. Let us pray for ever greater unity in the truth of Christ.

Seven years ago, in an effort to safeguard that truth, and to ensure it is preserved and faithfully transmitted in our diocese for all generations, we introduced a diocesan speaker policy and appropriate procedures for reviewing all presentations on faith and morals. In recent months, I have asked members of my staff to review that policy and to refine it wherever needed, based on our experience of recent years and in light of all applicable canons of the Church. The appended General Executory Decree Regarding Presentations on Faith and Morals, applicable forms, and supplemental materials are the fruits of this initiative.

It is intended that these materials will serve as a valuable resource for the diocesan offices and for all of our Catholic parishes, apostolates, and faithful people. A number of you have asked for this useful tool because of the assurance that comes from the diocese vetting a proposed speaker, affording sensitivity to the speaker as well as the potential audience, and as a practical means to avoid having to withdraw any speaker invitation and suffer someone embarrassment. Similarly, with the addition of lists of recommended and already-approved speakers, it is my hope that the process will prove easier for those who search for well-qualified speakers on faith and morals.

While it remains my responsibility that presentations in the diocese regarding faith and morals are in full accord with the truth of God, I need your help to achieve the objectives outlined by this decree. To that end, I ask that you share this important decree and accompanying forms with those with whom you work and those who will need to know and utilize their contents.

In thanksgiving for your continued cooperation and in appreciation for all of your important work for the Church, I remain,

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

Enclosures

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