



THE CHANCERY
OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM

To: Brother Priests and Permanent Deacons

From: Father LaMorte 

Date: May 20, 2020

Subject: *Bollettino XXXIII*

It is undeniable that one of the most difficult aspects of the ongoing crisis caused by Covid-19 continues to be the temporary suspension of public Masses and sacraments. Although there are livestreamed Masses available through the parishes of the archdiocese, we all eagerly await the return of in-person practice of our faith.

Since this pandemic began, the Catholic Church and other faith communities throughout New York State have willingly cooperated with the guidelines put in place by medical and health professionals and our elected officials. We are grateful that the governor recognizes the strong desire of our people, including leaders of all faiths, to resume religious services in a safe and responsible manner. For the past number of weeks, several priests and members of the curia and I have been discussing with each other and consulting with medical experts on the best way to reopen our churches. We have prepared a set of guidelines for a gradual re-opening that follows the guidance of health professional and elected leaders.

Cardinal Dolan will hold an already scheduled press conference tomorrow, Thursday, May 21 at 11:00 am at the Church of Our Saviour, Park Avenue and 38th Street in Manhattan to detail these plans. It will be recorded and we will make that video available to everyone. In addition, here are the documents detailing our safety procedures, so that you can familiarize yourself with the precautions that will allow us to work with state and local officials to bring the Mass and sacraments back to the Catholic community in a responsible and expeditious manner.

At the moment, the policies delineated in *Bollettino XV* on March 23, 2020 regarding the celebration of the sacraments and rites of the Church remain in effect.

Thank you for your patience and your faith as we work together to reopen our churches.

PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK TOMORROW AT 11AM

(New York, NY) **The Archdiocese of New York** will hold a press conference tomorrow **Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 11:00 AM** to discuss preparations that are underway for the re-opening of the archdiocese's 288 churches upon the approval by health and state officials. The press conference will take place at **Our Saviour Parish**, 59 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (38th Street) and will also be streamed LIVE at the link provided below.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, **Reverend Monsignor Joseph P. LaMorte**, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of New York and head of the re-opening task force, and **Reverend Monsignor Kevin Sullivan**, executive director of Catholic Charities and administrator of Our Saviour Parish, will be speaking at the conference. They will be discussing the roadmap for re-opening, current and forthcoming safety measures, liturgical accommodations, and guidelines for public participation.

Given social distancing requirements, members of the press interested in attending are asked to please RSVP by responding to this email. Masks will be required for all members of the media who attend.

Link to the livestream of the Press Conference (for Press ONLY):

<https://zoom.us/j/3974678644?pwd=eC9HWDNuNlJGY3FwWnFtRWRwWUJkZz09>