

**Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D.**



*By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See  
First Bishop of Laredo*

## **DECREE**

### **The Phased Restoration of Public Worship**

As Bishop of the Diocese of Laredo, the well-being of all the brothers and sisters who journey together in faith in the seven counties that make up our local Church has always been my main concern. It was out of concern for the prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and following consultation with other Bishops in Texas, key leaders at our diocesan level, civil authorities and the *Code of Canon Law*, I issued a Decree on March 18, 2020 “*Suspending the Public Celebrations of Mass and the Enactment of other Liturgical Measures*” in the Diocese of Laredo until further notice.

After a prayerful reflection and consultation and in accord with canon 838 §1 and §4 of the *Code of Canon Law*, the March 18, 2020, “*Suspending the Public Celebrations of Mass and the Enactment of other Liturgical Measures*” Decree is hereby emended, and hereby decree the reinstatement of the public celebration of Masses in the Diocese of Laredo. However, this is regulated by particular law in the Diocese of Laredo, directives from the Governor of the State of Texas and directives from local civil authorities in an effort to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Furthermore, I hereby direct that this Decree “*The Phased Restoration of Public Worship*” to be followed in the Diocese of Laredo.

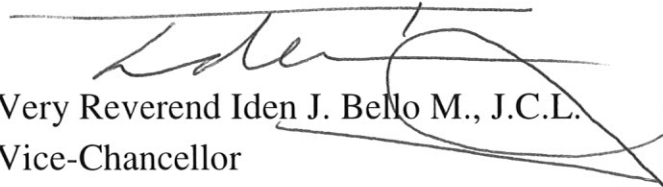
The dispensation granted on March 19, 2020, from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (cc. 87, §1; 1247) for all the faithful in the Diocese of Laredo remains in effect until further notice. This means that the faithful are dispensed from their moral obligation to attend the public celebration of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

This measure takes effect on the evening of June 6, 2020. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Diocesan Curia, in Laredo Texas, on May 22, 2020.



Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, D.D.  
First Bishop of Laredo



Very Reverend Iden J. Bello M., J.C.L.  
Vice-Chancellor