



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

DECREE

Since March of 2020, we have been in a global pandemic caused by the Novel Coronavirus which produces Covid-19. The widely accepted medical opinion is that the virus is highly contagious and spread by droplets and aerosols. Time and exposure can lead to infection, which can be deadly, especially to vulnerable individuals. Therefore, coming together for meetings, prayers, and liturgies can result in individuals becoming infected, becoming ill, and even dying.

Currently the number of people being infected and the number of active cases of the virus have reached a record high. The situation may deteriorate with even more active cases and deaths in the near future.

In light of this, I hereby extend to all the faithful in the Diocese of Cheyenne the dispensation from the obligation to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation through Friday, March 26, 2021 (see canons 87 §1; 1245). To those who are well, who do not have conditions that make them especially vulnerable to the virus, and who are comfortable coming, I encourage you to celebrate the Eucharist with your parish, while observing the protocol in place, such as wearing face masks and maintaining physical distance between households.

To those who use this dispensation due to sickness, compromised health issues, or another good moral reason, be assured that you are in our prayers, and know that we need your prayer. I urge you to keep holy the Lord's Day. Participate in a live-streamed Mass, spend time in prayer, read the Sacred Scriptures, meditate on the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, or practice the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

God is with us. This time is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with the Lord, to deepen our hunger and appreciation of the Eucharist, and to bring his mercy to others. As we walk this paschal journey, let us pray for one another, especially the sick, the deceased, anyone adversely affected by the pandemic, healthcare workers, and researchers developing a vaccine. Be assured of my prayers for you, and please pray for me.

Given in Cheyenne on November 13, 2020, the memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler
Bishop of Cheyenne

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor