



DIOCESE OF BAKER

Office of the Bishop
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DECREE

ON MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 THREAT

Whereas the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon, consistent with guidelines of the President of the United States of America and with statements issued by federal authorities, has prohibited for the next four weeks gatherings exceeding 25 person and further recommended that they be limited to less than 10 persons;

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);

Desirous of cooperating with efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19, in virtue of my duty to direct, promote, and guard the liturgical life of the Diocese, including the celebration of the sacraments (c. 835 §1), I hereby decree the cancellation of all public Masses within the territory of the Diocese of Baker until the 14th of April 2020.

Therefore, in virtue of canon 87 §1 and for the reasons expressed above, all the faithful of the Diocese of Baker and others actually present in the Diocese are *dispensed* from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation (c. 1247).

In accord with the divine command, however, the faithful are obliged 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, and ask them to be attentive to forthcoming pastoral guidelines on the COVID-19 threat.

This decree and dispensation shall take effect on the 20th of March 2020 and remain in force until 14th of April 2020.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Baker on this 19th day of March 2020, everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Most Reverend Liam Cary
Bishop of Baker

Very Reverend Richard O. Fischer
Vicar General, Diocese of Baker

(SEAL)