

May 6, 2000: A Correction to a Common Misconception

Although the governor has allowed the resumption of public worship in Indiana as of May 8th, there will still not be public Masses in the archdiocese of Indianapolis or any of the other dioceses of Indiana that soon. There are no public Masses scheduled for this coming weekend, May 9th and 10th, and more than likely, we will not have any public Masses on the weekend of May 16th and 17th, either. Before there can be a Mass open to the public we have to be able to insure that we can worship in a way that follows the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control, including how to maintain social distancing, sanitizing the worship space after each liturgy, etc. There is no blueprint for how to do this. There is a lot of conversation taking place but the ramifications are complex, different in the individual circumstances of the various places of worship and subject to all kinds of constraints such as how to get all of this organized in a timely manner.

I know we will all be happy when we can celebrate the Eucharist together again in our parish church, but the truth of the matter is that the virus is not gone. We still have to protect ourselves from it, and that will mean accommodating ourselves to this new reality. It will not be easy and there is a risk involved that we will not get it right. Please pray for wisdom and clarity so that we can follow the Lord's lead and reduce the likelihood that opening the church will lead to someone getting sick or worse. No one wants that on their conscience.