



Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

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DECREE

Understanding the great significance of the Holy Mass in the life of the Church, and its spiritual significance to so many of our faithful, it is with a heavy heart that I must acknowledge that the current threat of the coronavirus has made it dangerous for many people, especially the elderly and those with compromised medical conditions, to attend holy Mass on Sunday. With this in mind, and motivated by a desire for the safety, welfare and love of all the faithful, I hereby dispense all the faithful of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. This dispensation is effective at days end and will remain in force until further notice. I also instruct pastors to suspend the celebration of all public Masses until further notice.

Even in the midst of this pandemic and the closing of our churches to public ministry, I continue to exhort the faithful of the Diocese to continue to cultivate a devotion to Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist. To be ever mindful of the love that we have for the Sunday Mass and most certainly the love in which Jesus loves us during the Mass, it will be through online Masses and our Sunday Scriptures that we will continue to encounter our Lord. A deeper devotion for the Eucharist may be developed by making a spiritual Communion during the normal time of Holy Communion at Mass or in your devotional prayer time.

Please remember that the priests of our Diocese are celebrating Mass without a congregation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana and for the entire Church. Let us hold one another in prayer during this time of fear, suffering, uncertainty and separation from the Mass, Sacraments and our faith families. Let us always be confident that the Holy Spirit is acting within the Church and that Jesus has conquered sin and death. *Sin and death no longer have power over us.* (Rms. 6:9,14)

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana on this 17th day of March in the year of Our Lord, 2020 under the patronage of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty, STL, PhD
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Very Reverend Theodore C. Dudzinski, JCL
Chancellor

SEAL

