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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Date: November 24, 2020

To: Priests/Administrators

From: Bishop Peter Christensen *+ Peter*

Re: REMINDER TO CARE FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

**With the Governor's decision to go back to a modified Stage 2 last week, the following provisions remain in place:**

- Maintain the six (6) foot physical distancing requirement.
- Disinfect your facilities and regularly clean them, especially high-touch areas.
- Encourage anyone who enters your church and parish center to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the buildings.
- In light of the spike in the current COVID-19 cases, I ask that all of our parishioners be mindful of our brothers and sisters by wearing a mask while attending church services. In this way we can help to safeguard one another from catching the virus, and at the same time, do our best to help keep our churches to remain open for worship.
- Remind others to self-monitor for fever or symptoms of COVID-19 by refraining from entering the church if they have any concerns about their possible infection.

**Furthermore:**

- **Mass Dispensation.** I will continue to dispense from the Sunday Obligation for those whose anxiety with regard to their health makes them apprehensive about attending Mass and all others who are medically vulnerable.

- **Communion to the Faithful Under One Species:** Parishes will continue to offer only the Body of Christ to the faithful: Only clergy will receive from the chalice. A decision at a later date will be made as to *when* all may receive from the Cup; furthermore, I encourage that all the faithful continue to receive Communion on the hand.
- **Sign of Peace:** Respectfully showing a sign of peace will be a gesture the faithful may determine for themselves.
- **Non-Liturgical Gatherings:** All extra-liturgical gatherings of 10 or less may take place, as long as social distancing and sanitizing practices are maintained.

Again, all of the above are highly recommended unless otherwise indicated by state and local guidelines. Our parishes are to remain open. So far, we have not become loci of outbreaks; this is due largely to your leadership, your diligence, and common sense. I thank you for your excellent work. I ask you to continue to model not fear, but responsible care for each other.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tish Thornton ([tthornton@rcdb.org](mailto:tthornton@rcdb.org)) or Marisela Baca ([mbaca@rcdb.org](mailto:mbaca@rcdb.org)) in the chancery office.