



Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis

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Dear Directors of Evangelization and/or Discipleship Formation,

In his recent [letter](#) anticipating the month of May, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics around the world to rediscover the “beauty of praying the rosary at home.”

The Holy Father is convinced that contemplating “*the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.*” My wife and I have seen the power of praying the Rosary with her family during these past weeks: With her parents and sisters and their families isolated in four different states, but united by the daily meditations on the mysteries via zoom, the Rosary has become an anchor for all of us in ways we would have never expected.

As we ask the Blessed Mother to make our parishes and dioceses “even more united as a spiritual family” during this time of uncertainty and sorrow, I would like to share with you two updates from the USCCB:

- The first concerns what has been a top priority for the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis—**outreach to the religiously unaffiliated**. As you know, the number of people who identify as “religiously unaffiliated” continues to rise, especially in the younger demographics. This time of social distancing may be an opportunity to take a step back to reconsider and assess our work in this area, and the Committee has released a [video, discussion guide, and other resources](#) to help with your discernment and planning.
- The second update concerns **Religious Freedom Week** which takes place June 22-29, 2020. The theme for this year is *For the Good of All* and [resources](#) have been made available on the USCCB website.

May Our Lady of the Rosary, Mother of the Church, continue to intercede on our behalf during these challenging days!

Grace and Peace,

David Spesia
Executive Director

