



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 14, 2020

**TO:** Diocesan and Religious Priests, Parish Life Directors

**COPY:** Permanent deacons, Seminarians, Parish Secretaries, Superiors of Religious Congregations, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils, Employees of the Archdiocesan Centre

**FROM:** Most Reverend Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

**SUBJECT:** **Covid-19 Clarifications for Religious Services, at this particular moment of the pandemic**

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Dear friends,

Autumn blessings to all! I am sending as attachment a document entitled ***Covid-19 Clarifications for Religious Services***. This document addresses many detailed (in-the-weeds) questions that have recently surfaced. After a summer of people generally relaxing the practices set forth in public health directives and recommendations, this has been followed by a fall where increasing contagion rates have increased the level once more of those practices required of all for the common good and the safety of those who are vulnerable and fragile in their health condition.

To answer the many old and new questions and concerns that have thus resurfaced, the decision was taken by the Archdiocese to respond to these questions and concerns by offering a series of greater detailed clarifications to the "*Liturgical Protocol No. IV – At a Glance*" issued on May 29, 2020.

The attached document was developed according to the following steps:

- Discussion at the Diocesan Council of Priests' meeting on September 8, 2020
- Polling all the Priests/Parish Life Directors for all questions and concerns they had
- Our Communications Coordinator having direct contact and discussion with Minister Ron Schuller, the government minister appointed to be the liaison with faith groups.



This continued through other officials of his office. These discussions clarified some details and are reflected in the text.

- A second meeting of the Diocesan Council of Priests on October 7, 2020, to decide upon outstanding questions and to work towards a consensus of what was to be communicated to all in the diocese.
- Throughout this process, communication and coordination was assured with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy
- This document is now being communicated to all the faithful of the Archdiocese via the *Weekly News Bulletin*, the diocesan Website and diocesan Facebook page.
- This document will be followed by further clarifications should the public health situation change considerably
- To better know in what spirit to interpret and implement locally these clarifications please see my Facebook video message of Friday, October 2, 2020.

Sincerely yours in Jesus and Mary,

*+ Albert LeGatt*

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Archbishop of Saint Boniface