



THE CHANCERY
OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM

To: Brother Priests and Permanent Deacons

From: Father LaMorte 

Date: June 9, 2020

Subject: *Bollettino XXXIX*

ADNY LEVEL IV TO BEGIN THIS SUNDAY Based upon the good reports from around the archdiocese today with the reopening of weekday Mass, baptisms, weddings and funerals, Cardinal Dolan would like to announce that, in the Hudson Valley counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester, Sunday Mass will resume on June 14, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, including the anticipated Mass on Saturday evening at 25% of the capacity of the church provided that physical distancing and other guidelines are followed. All precautions must be taken (wearing of masks, maintaining a six-foot distance, no physical contact except for communion, frequent washing of hands, and sanitizing surfaces). Our first priority is the safety of the clergy and people, and self-care of all ministers. The second priority is to resume in-person worship.

Entry to churches will be through one door only. A greeter will be present to count the faithful as they enter. Strict cutoff will be when 25% of the church capacity is reached. At that point, it is up to the pastor to decide what to do with the overflow – hold a simultaneous Mass at another location, live stream it, or ask the people to attend a later Mass. Now is the time to prepare your parishioners on which method you have selected. Refer once again to the June issue of *Liturgy Update* that was sent last Wednesday for some ideas on outdoor Masses on Sundays. This is an excellent option to consider especially if you are not ready to open your church.

The faithful might be reminded that for now there is no requirement for them to come back to Mass once churches are open. Those who are at a greater risk of COVID-19 (those older than 65 or who have underlying health conditions) are cautioned not to come to church for Mass. They may join us only when they feel safe and comfortable to do so. His Eminence has dispensed us from an obligation to attend Sunday Mass at this time. As an alternative, Mass may be viewed on line or on TV, and the act of spiritual communion

may be used instead of receiving the Eucharist. While we miss them when they are not here, we rely on their continued support of our churches, parishes and archdiocese. Encourage them to mail in envelopes or contribute by way of online giving.

Some priests may be concerned about their own ability to celebrate the Mass or sacraments due to age or compromised health and should not feel compelled to offer Mass. Contact Bishop Ed Whalen (917-742-6515) about arranging for assistance. And don't forget to be tested for the virus as often as every week.

The City of New York began NYS Phase I of reopening yesterday with the resumption of construction, manufacturing and curb-side retail pickup. This phase affects our parishes in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island who will remain in ADNY Level I of the *Faith Forward* plan, allowing our churches to be open only for visits and confession. Once the city moves into Phase II, probably as early as the beginning of July, Mass and the sacraments will resume there. We continue to rely on health experts to guide us.

TESTING FOR CORONAVIRUS AND ANTIBODIES The archdiocese has entered into a business relationship with SOMOS Community Care, a large health care provider located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, providing for the no-cost COVID-19 testing of all archdiocesan priests and deacons. To schedule a test for either the coronavirus (by use of swabs) or the related antibody (by way of blood samples), call Dr. Lidia Virgil, the chief operating officer at SOMOS at 516-971-1824 or 833-766-6769. She will assist you with the details and make sure you are able to make an appointment. It is important to identify yourself as a clergyman and that you are not using archdiocesan insurance. Results are in four days. Testing sites are in Manhattan at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Bridget/St. Emeric, St. Elizabeth in Washington Heights, and St. Jude. In the Bronx, they are at Holy Spirit, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Rita of Cascia and St. Nicholas of Tolentine; in Staten Island at ArchCare at Carmel Richmond Nursing Home; in Yonkers at St. Peter/St. Denis; in Dutchess at ArchCare at Ferncliff Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Rhinebeck. We are exploring the use of more sites in the counties. You may call them at 845-876-2011. Should there be any questions, contact Mr. David Brown at 917-696-6254.

VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH CARDINAL DOLAN His Eminence would like to visit with the clergy and seminarians of the archdiocese again on Thursday morning, June 18. Time and call-in information will be sent to you. Again, there will be a chance to send a text message with a question for the cardinal.

EXTRAORDINARY RECONCILIATION FRIDAY His Eminence would like to offer our people the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation as the return to Sunday Mass becomes imminent, on the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 19 from 10-12 and 4-6. Auxiliary bishops, deans and members of the presbyteral council were surveyed and those who wrote back were favorable. There will be more to come in the next *bollottino* this week.

SUNDAY MASS COVERAGE The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal have graciously offered to help with coverage for Sunday Masses. The unfortunate reality that summer coverage may not be available from priests of other countries may mean adjusting our own vacation schedules. Also, the gradual re-opening of parishes over the summer months calls for our presence in the parish to make sure that we do this correctly, and are there to welcome our people back to regular participation at Sunday Mass. Should you need help, again contact Ed Whalen (917-742-6515) so he may coordinate with the CFRs.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY OILS As previously announced, the cardinal will bless holy oils prior to the ordination Mass on June 26. In an effort to observe physical distancing, holy oils will not be distributed at the cathedral or the seminary this year. Instead, parishes will receive three six-ounce bottles of holy oils locally from their deans. They will be prearranged in a separate bag for each parish, and the distribution process should be quick. Deans will communicate with the parishes in their area how they will give out the holy oils. Additional quantities will be made available later in the year. Contact Father Matthew Ernest at liturgy@archny.org.

USE EMAIL FOR QUICK SERVICE When communicating with the chancery office during this time of work from home, try using email instead of postal mail. Letters delivered to the offices as the Catholic Center can sometimes sit in the mailroom for days before they are delivered. Until we open the building, please send mail for the vicar general to 452 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022 or scan and email to vg@archny.org. The phone number is 212-688-7954.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE BLESSING OF OILS His Eminence has designated Friday, June 26 at 9:00 AM as the day for the ordination of the class of 2020. Those to be ordained are Reverend Mr. Luis Silva for the archdiocese and Reverend Brother Roland Pereira, M.Id for the Idente Missionaries. Attendance at the cathedral will be limited.

Reverend Brothers Oisin Matrin, CFR and Malachy Napier, CFR were ordained on Saturday, May 30 at Most Blessed Sacrament Friary in Newark by Auxiliary Bishop Manuel Cruz of Newark. Auxiliary bishops, deans, seminary faculty, and members of the presbyteral council are some that may be in attendance. Most others will be participating from an electronic distance.

Also, there is no way we can have a Mass of the Chrism this year. So, within the ordination Mass, the cardinal will bless the oils and consecrate the chrism. When the two candidates pronounce their promises, we would all renew ours with them. These events will be live streamed. Please add this date to your calendar.