



October 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I thank you for your sustained concern for the well-being of all who enter our churches during this pandemic, which has continued far beyond what anyone could have anticipated, and I suspect will continue for the near foreseeable future. You continue to make great sacrifices and remain flexible with the ever-changing situation, and I am grateful.

Out of charity for one another, we must not slow down in our safety practices or become weary with these measures, as out of the ordinary as they may be. With Advent and Christmas approaching, it is critical that we remain diligent in safeguarding those in our parishes to the extent that we are able.

I understand that you may have questions regarding Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services Epidemic Order, issued yesterday (Oct. 29), and that questions continue to surface regarding the proper procedures in the event of a positive test result or possible exposure within your parish or parish staff. The enclosures are meant to assist you with these questions as you continue to navigate the daily operation of your parish.

Additionally, further information will be forthcoming next week regarding any changes to the protocols for our worship and liturgy; our Advent and Christmas liturgical celebrations; and the possible extension of the general dispensation. Please "stay tuned" for such an update in the near future.

While it is possible to feel weighed down with such safety considerations, I find it helpful to remember that physical health and spiritual vitality are both of great consequence. I remain grateful for your concern for the physical well-being of your people, as well as the matters of eternal significance. It is my hope that we can keep everyone safe, and at the same time, continue to prioritize their spiritual care and direction during these times when it is needed most.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Apostolic Administrator

Enclosures:

1. *Updated Guidelines for Non-Liturgical Parish Activities*
2. *COVID-19 Procedures if a Parish Staff Member Tests Positive or has Potential Exposure*