

MEMORANDUM

TO: Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Joliet
FROM: Bishop Richard E. Pates
DATE: May 20, 2020
RE: Day of prayer, fasting and works of charity

Thanks ever so much to our parish priests and their staffs and generous volunteers for the positive response to the reopening process of our churches which was communicated this past Monday.

In this regard it is asked the following sequence occur:

- I. The preparation of our Churches and/or other spaces that are intended to be used for the celebration of the Eucharist should be addressed immediately. Once certification is received from the Diocese then that parish may introduce for *ten persons or fewer*:
 - a. Baptisms
 - b. Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - c. Marriages
 - d. Funerals
 - e. Private visits to the Church
 - f. Benediction and Adoration

Very importantly, in this phase, the Church will be prepared to celebrate Sunday, Holy Day and Daily Mass as soon as permission is granted by the State of Illinois. The numbers participating will depend on the outcome of the capacity of the church with safe distancing, etc. considered. The permission may come without much notice. We want to be ready.

- II. After the certification request has been approved, a given parish could then submit a proposal for parking lot Masses. Such is required in order that the integrity and reverence for the Mass is protected and proper safety measures are in place.

Again, heartfelt thanks to our parish priests and their volunteer associates for their cooperation in preparing our churches for reopening. Your attention to the complexity of the process is especially appreciated.

By way of reminder, I once again cite the following dates for our diocesan activities:

1. **Sunday, May 31, 2020, 2:00pm**
Mass of support live streamed from the Cathedral of St. Raymond for Confirmation candidates of the Diocese of Joliet.
2. **Sunday, June 14, 2020, 2:00pm**
Mass of support live streamed from the Cathedral of St. Raymond for the First Communion candidates of the Diocese of Joliet.

3. **Friday, June 19, 2020**

Virtual Day of Recollection for priests of the Diocese of Joliet and the ordination candidates on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. More information to follow.

4. **Saturday, June 20, 2020, 10:00am**

Ordination of seven priesthood candidates for the Diocese of Joliet at Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus. More information to follow.

Again, my gratitude as well as my prayers and best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates

Apostolic Administrator

Diocese of Joliet