



Office of the Bishop
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May 27, 2020

Dear Fathers, Parish Administrators, and Deacons:

This afternoon, our Diocesan Restoration Advisory Council met for two hours to discuss the implications of Governor Sisolak's order regarding the limited reopening of places of worship.

This coming week, my Office will issue the guidelines and detailed protocols that will assist you in preparing to enter Phase 2, which limits congregations to include no more than 50 people to gather for worship.

During Phase 2, you will be allowed to gather for Eucharistic Liturgy, Funerals, Marriage, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, and Quinceañeras, provided no more than 50 people, including the Celebrant and assistants, are in attendance.

In the Diocese of Las Vegas, Phase 2 will commence on **Saturday, June 6, 2020, the Vigil of Trinity Sunday.**

This coming weekend, while the Discontinuance Order is still in effect, I am asking you to provide livestream or taped Masses for the Vigil of Pentecost and Pentecost Sunday.

On a positive note, it is very likely that Phase 2 will be short lived and can serve as a much needed "dress rehearsal" as we prepare to enter Phase 3 where much larger numbers can be anticipated.

In advance of Phase 3, I will gather all the Priests by Deanery for an in-person meeting at Guardian Angel Cathedral, which will provide you with the opportunity to have your questions answered and your concerns addressed.

In the meantime, I am asking for your understanding and full cooperation with the incremental approach that has been outlined by Governor Sisolak's office.

I am deeply grateful to the Restoration Advisory Council for all its members are doing to prepare protocols and guidelines that will help to ensure the safety and well-being of our congregations and clergy, most especially the medically vulnerable and elderly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George L. Thomas, Ph.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas