



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon**  
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April 24, 2020  
Friday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

**Update and Announcements re: Diocesan Initiatives  
Regarding COVID-19**

**To the Catholic Clergy, Religious, & Faithful of the Diocese of  
Saskatoon:**

Greetings to you all in the Easter season. I am pleased to update you regarding the following diocesan initiatives:

**1) Day of Prayer and Fasting to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Fridays during the Easter Season beginning Friday, May 1, 2020.**

Following discussion with the Presbyteral Council yesterday, I am pleased to invite our parishes to celebrate each Friday throughout the Easter season (and perhaps beyond) as a day of prayer and fasting for the intention that God will bring healing to the COVID pandemic. We are also joining a prayer campaign to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for those who show us the heart of Jesus through their provision and health care and other services through the pandemic. (Further information and resources will be provided shortly.)

**2) Consecration to Mary, Mother of the Church: Friday May 1, 2020.**

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (along with the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops) is inviting all dioceses across Canada to consecrate their dioceses and eparchies to Mary, Mother of the Church in seeking her maternal protection during the COVID pandemic. I am pleased to announce that our diocese will join in this consecration on May 1. (Further information and resources will be provided shortly.)

**3) Recent Announcement from Premier of Saskatchewan re: modified COVID 19 guidelines.**

The premier, Scott Moe, has announced a gradual lessening of restrictions in our province. While nothing explicitly has been announced regarding

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

religious organizations and gatherings, I will be meeting with the Liturgy Commission next week to explore how we can as a diocese apply the criteria that we have to date to our liturgical and sacramental practices in the diocese, and a proposed timeline to implement changes. I hope to report back about this in the near future.

I conclude by thanking you again for your support in honoring the directives in place from March 17, 2020 which suspended public Masses and affected other liturgical and sacramental celebrations. These circumstances have been difficult for us all. However, they have been a very important response to the COVID 19 pandemic, with the aim of caring especially for our elders, the sick, and those who might be otherwise susceptible to the life-threatening virus.

Finally, I noted the irony given our current circumstances suggested by today's Gospel Acclamation as we continue to deal with a time when we cannot gather publicly for the Holy Eucharist: *"One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4) I join with all of you in thanking God for the many ways that our clergy and parishes are persisting in proclaiming the Word of God during this pandemic – as we wait in joyful hope for the time when we can again gather to celebrate and receive the Bread of Life at Eucharist.

Yours sincerely, in Christ,

  
✠ Most Rev. Mark A. Hagemoen