



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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Decree

Due to grave concerns regarding COVID-19 (the novel coronavirus), and mindful of the highly contagious nature of this illness, on March 13, 2020, I first granted the faithful of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester a dispensation from the obligation set out in *CIC* can. 1247 to “participate in the Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation.” Then, in a subsequent decree of March 20, 2020, I extended this dispensation.

Now, because of the ongoing, legitimate, and well-founded public health concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I hereby decree that:

The faithful of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester continue to be dispensed, for an indefinite period of time, from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, even while the more fundamental obligation of keeping holy the Lord’s Day still remains. This dispensation will perdure until further notice, even after the celebration of Mass for the general public is resumed.

The faithful are pastorally reminded that the circumstances of this pandemic present a truly “just cause” for fulfilling the obligation to receive Holy Communion at least once every year (the so-called “Easter duty”) at a time outside the Easter season, as per *CIC* can. 920 §2.

This decree is effective as of May 15, 2020, and remains in force until the public health issues which motivated it are resolved to a satisfactory extent.

Given on May 15, 2020, in the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota.

+ John M. Quinn

Most Rev. John M. Quinn

Bishop of Winona-Rochester

Very Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs

Chancellor