

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:13 PM
Subject: Update Letter to Priests
Attachments: USCCB - 20-114 (3).pdf; Funeral Guidelines during pandemic (1).pdf; Best Practices for Accompaniment in Coronavirus for Particular Situations (3).pdf

Good afternoon brothers,

I have a number of items for you today so let's get to them.

First, our brother priest, Vinny McKiernan, was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday April 21st. Ed Nowak says that Vinny is feeling better and is sounding more like himself. Please join me in continued prayers for Vinny that he may enjoy a full recovery.

Second, I am forwarding to you the attached Memo from the USCCB concerning the Reconsecration of the United States to Mary, Mother of the Church. This will take place on May 1 in conjunction with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. I will be sending additional information to you very soon about how this will take place in our Diocese, but I wanted you to see this information now in order to get it on your radar.

Third, Rich Finn has prepared a set of funeral guidelines for our diocesan cemeteries during the pandemic. I think these would be helpful for parish cemeteries as well, so please read the attached guidelines.

Fourth, working with Fr. Adam Streitenberger I have attached for you a list of resources and best practices to assist your parishioners with specific needs. I hope you find these materials useful. We have shared among ourselves and our parishes and schools a number of resources during this extraordinary time, and there will be more to come. The USCCB has several pages of information on their web site that may be useful to you if you do not have these resources already:

<http://usccb.org/about/communications/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-crisis.cfm>

<http://usccb.org/about/communications/usccb-president-reflection-and-prayer-during-coronavirus.cfm>

<http://usccb.org/about/communications/covid-19-crisis-resources-from-catholic-publishers.cfm>

Thank you, dear brothers, for your strength, perseverance, and spirit during this time. I was inspired by the words of the Psalmist today, which I share with you now:

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.
Many are the troubles of the just man, but out of them all the LORD delivers him.*

Fraternally,

Bishop Brennan

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Office of the General Secretary

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President

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Reverend Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary *JBB*

Date: April 22, 2020

Subject: Invitation of Most Reverend José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, President, to May 1
Reconsecration of the United States to Mary, Mother of the Church

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

I take this opportunity to convey to you, on behalf of Most Reverend José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, President, and at his request, an invitation to join together in the reconsecration of the nation to Our Lady under the title of Mary, Mother of the Church, on May 1, 2020.

The attached notes the coterminous consecration of Canada by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Further information will follow shortly on additional details of the ceremony itself.

Thank you for your kind attention to this memorandum.



Office of the President

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166
Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President

My Brother Bishops,

Every year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May. This year we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic. In that spirit, plans are underway for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) to consecrate the nation of Canada to the care of our Blessed Mother on May 1, 2020.

Based on discussion with the leadership of the CCCB, the Executive Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) met and affirmed the fittingness of May 1, 2020, as an opportunity for the bishops of the United States to reconsecrate our nation to Our Lady and to do so under the title, Mary, Mother of the Church, doing so on the same day that our brother bishops to the north consecrate Canada under the same title.

On that basis, I am pleased to invite you to join me in a prayer of reconsecration of our nation to the protection of the Blessed Mother on May 1. This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady's continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus.

I will lead this prayer of reconsecration at 12 pm PDT / 3 pm EDT. I invite you to join at this time in your diocese as you are able, or to choose another opportune time on May 1 so that we can together reconsecrate our nation to the Blessed Mother. The Secretariat for Divine Worship at the USCCB will be providing the liturgical direction and resource for this occasion. The Office of Communications of the USCCB will be providing logistical information for virtual connection for the ceremony of reconsecration itself and promoting this event by social media in the coming days, but I wished to offer this invitation to you as soon as I could for planning purposes. As we prepare for this event, please have your communications staff consult and scroll the Conference social media channels (<https://twitter.com/USCCB>, <https://www.facebook.com/usccb/>, and <https://www.instagram.com/usccb/?hl=en>) and Catholic News Service to advance the invitation to the faithful for their participation.

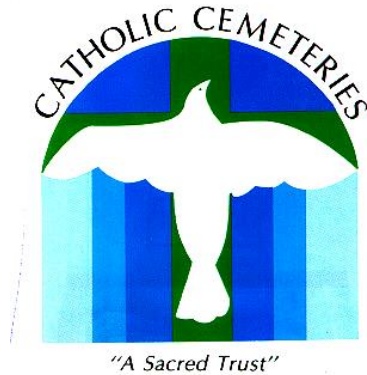
In this Easter Season we continue to journey with our Risen Lord that among the graces of this time may be healing and strength, especially for all who are burdened by the many effects of the COVID pandemic.

Wishing you every blessing in this Easter Season, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



To Pastors, Funeral Directors and Friends who assist in helping the families we serve the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus have established a few guidelines to enable our employees and our families to be in a safe environment during the current covid-19 pandemic. Should there be any questions please feel free to contact, Rich Finn, the Director of Cemeteries at 614-403-0809.

Office Procedures for At Need Funerals

1. If family already owns burial rights they will not come to the office to sign documents. The Decedent Information Form and Invoice will be emailed or faxed to them for approval. All information regarding the graveside/cryptside service shall be verified with the informant by phone conversation and e-mail.
2. If the family needs to purchase burial rights no more than three (3) persons may enter the office for discussions. Additional family members may assist in selection of space outside on the grounds keeping in mind the limits of 10 per group and social distancing. No family member shall ride in the cemetery vehicle with the family service advisor in selection of graves. Once a burial site has been selected it shall not be necessary for the family to remain in the office while the paperwork is completed unless they wish to do so.

Funeral Ceremony at the Cemetery

1. Graveside/Cryptside services only. No indoor services in the cemetery chapels at this time. Do to limited number of pall bearers graveside services will be located near the roadways.
2. There will be no visitation at graveside before or after the prayer service. Per cemetery rules no casket may be opened before or after prayers at the graveside.
3. Tents with no side walls will be erected only when the weather forecast shows the possibility for rain. No chairs will be permitted at graveside services.
4. Only immediate family may attend. A total of ten persons may join at graveside gathering no less than six feet apart. Any others in attendance are to remain in their cars during the service.
5. Upon completion of graveside prayers and military honors the family shall depart the graveside and return to their cars. There shall be no gathering at the grave after the prayers.
6. Once family members have departed cemetery personnel will arrive to perform the burial/entombment. The family may designate one representative to witness the burial. The witness must be in their car and will not be permitted to be at graveside. Should the site not be visible from the car then a minimum of 50 feet between the witness and the grave shall be maintained.

St. Joseph Cemetery
6440 S. High St.
Lockbourne, OH 43137
(614) 491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
9571 N. High St.
Lewis Center, OH 43065
(614) 888-1805

Holy Cross Cemetery
11539 National Rd. SW
Pataskala, OH 43062
(740) 927-4442

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
c/o
St. Joseph Cemetery
(614) 491-2751

First, we are so proud of all our pastors and parishes for they are doing to accompany their people. Several parishes are experiencing an influx of viewers for their livestreaming Masses and other practices who have not or would not otherwise attend their Masses in person. We want to intentionally invite these people to join our community physically after the lifting of the “stay at home” orders. This can be done by inviting them through the livestreamed events to submit their emails or contact information to the parish and/or to join the parish’s email/text list hosted by Flocknote or similar platforms. The information could be posted at the end of the livestreamed event.

Second, over the last few weeks of the Coronavirus pandemic, several pastoral situations have arisen that require current and ongoing accompaniment. The first two are economic: the unemployed and those struggling small business owners. The third situation is that of couples who are experiencing stress in their relationship due to the current situation. Here are some best practices and resources to consider for the three pastoral situations. Pastors and parishes could promote these resources in their communication to their parishioners.

- I. Accompanying unemployed parishioners:
 - A. **Nos Lumine** is the Business Leadership Network for Catholics, founded by Jim Gernetzke, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle parish in Gahanna. Its members are focused on developing an *integrated life* where Christ is at the center of their family and work lives. As part of their parish outreach during this challenging time – Nos Lumine is providing FREE access to a special Job Search training program to members of our diocesan community who are dealing with unemployment or the threat of unemployment. The program was developed by Jim, a professional coach and 30-year veteran of the executive search world. It focuses on developing a targeted job search which leverages one’s personal and professional networks, rather than relying on the dark hole of the internet. For more information: contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com or 614-352-1191
- II. Accompanying small business owners in the parish:
 - A. **Nos Lumine** is the Business Leadership Network for Catholics, founded by Jim Gernetzke, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle parish in Gahanna. Its members are focused on developing an *integrated life* where Christ is at the center of their family and work lives. As part of their parish outreach during this challenging time – Nos Lumine is introducing a Catholic Business Directory. Inclusion is FREE for businesses whose ownership or leadership includes a member of our Catholic diocesan community. For more information: contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com or 614-352-1191
- III. Accompanying couples in stressed or strained relationships with each other:
 - A. **Online/Parish Programs**
 1. **Be Light Date Night Series**: Date Night Programming for five nights (beginning on 4/26). This can/should be shared with all couples at their parish (including those struggling in their marriages). Couples register on their own yet the point is to set up a group to connect with (virtually) after each session. A couple can invite a few friends and set this up or a

parish can offer this for their parishioners. We really encourage this unique event and the MFLO can assist if a parish would like to pursue this!

2. [Communio: COVID Crisis Toolbox for Relationships](#): Communio exists to serve churches in strengthening marriages and relationships both in their membership and helping them reach out to bless couples across their city. They offer consultation and expertise on how to maximize the number of couples you can reach at this time and provides resources you can send to them including virtual date nights, etc.

B. Coaching and Counseling Programs

1. [SmartLoving - BreakThrough](#): An online program for couples who are in marriages under stress or are feeling disconnected. A solid, Catholic option for a couple to do on their own and at their own pace. (Note: This is the same organization that we have recommended engaged couples use for their Pre-Cana since we have had to cancel some of ours.)
2. [Alexander House](#): Offers couples a connection with "Marriage Disciples" who coach them through various topics to improve their relationship. For couples that are both "healthy" in that they may not need traditional marriage counseling (no addictions, etc.), yet need help and support regarding their relationship.
3. [Pastoral Solutions Institute: Tele-Counseling Services](#): Organization dedicated to providing resources religiously-committed Catholics need to live more faithful and abundant marriage, family, and personal lives.

C. A Few Articles that May Help

1. [5 Small Ways You Can Support Each Other Every Day](#)
2. [10 Ways to Save A Struggling Marriage](#)

D. Podcasts

1. Abiding Together: [Marriage & Restoration with Dr. Bob Schuchts](#)
2. Made for Love: [Love in the Time of COVID](#)