

May 26, 2020

Dear Monsignor or Father or Deacon:

I hope this email finds you doing well. As you know, the diocesan offices are now open again at Saint Mark Catholic Center as of this morning, May 26. I want to update you on a few other points also.

- Some have asked if the protocols released last Thursday apply equally to counties in the green phase as in the yellow phase. The answer is yes: the protocols are in force without any amendment for counties in the green phase as well as in the yellow phase.
- It was suggested by Erie County health officials that at the end of Mass, the faithful should leave the church pew by pew, beginning with the pews closest to the exits, somewhat akin to the way people leave weddings. We suggest implementing that procedure for the dismissal at the end of Mass.
- Attached to this email is a flier and a notice from the PA Department of Health. The notice requires two signatures: one from the parish **Pandemic Safety Officer** (most likely the pastor himself, unless he appoints someone to the task) and one from the **Business Operator** (the pastor). Each pastor should print both of these documents and then obtain the required signatures. In accord with regulations from the Commonwealth, both the flier and the notice should be posted at the parish offices. Questions about these forms can be directed to Jim Tometsko (jtometsko@eriercd.org or 814-824-1189).
- Lastly, a number of priests and deacons have assignments which either have already passed their expiration date or are about to do so. The Bishop has extended to August 1, 2020 all assignments with expiration dates from January 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020. At this point, the plan is to have any new or renewed assignments take effect on August 1.

Thanks for all that you continue to do. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me or Father Chris Singer or Jim Tometsko.

Sincerely,
Msgr. Edward M. Lohse
Vicar General