



DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

P.O. Box 875
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
L2R 6Z4

THE CHANCERY

905-684-0154
Fax: 905-684-2185

MEMO

To: All Clergy and Religious in the Diocese of St. Catharines

From: Bishop Gerard Bergie

Date: May 15, 2020

- The Government of Ontario has begun to lift restrictions concerning COVID-19. Although we are still under a state of emergency, the first phase of the three-stage process of ‘opening up’ the province has begun. Unfortunately, opening up our churches is not part of this initial step. In preparation for the day when this will happen, the Executive of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario is developing a protocol. These guidelines will assist dioceses in the process of reopening parishes. From what I understand, it is suggested that this too be done in stages. There is also an ongoing discussion with government and health care officials to ensure that the reopening will begin as soon as reasonably possible. Like all of you, I long for the day when we can, once again, publicly celebrate the sacraments in our churches. Please feel free to share this limited information with parishioners, especially those who may be asking when we will be able to return to church.
- Due to the uncertainty surrounding the timeline for lifting the coronavirus restrictions, I have decided to postpone clergy transfers until the Fall. The College of Consultors is in agreement with this decision. I hope to be able to offer you more specific details in the coming weeks.
- In a press release dated 5 May 2020, the Apostolic Nunciature to Canada announced that His Holiness Pope Francis: has made the provision to amalgamate the Archdiocese of Ottawa and the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall into one ecclesiastical circumscription and to create the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall; has appointed the Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., currently Archbishop of Ottawa and Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall; has appointed the Most Reverend Marcel Damphousse, currently Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, as Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall; has appointed the Most Reverend Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R., currently Auxiliary Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall, as Bishop of Pembroke.

- Included with this memo is a copy of the CCCB-CCODP joint statement (prepared under the direction of the CCCB Executive Committee) regarding the work sessions held between the CCCB Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of CCODP's National Council as well as the decisions that came out of them. The joint statement is also posted on the CCCB website.
- For information on St Augustine's Online Preaching Stewardship Conference with His Eminence Cardinal Collins, Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Josephine Lombardi, and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Callan scheduled on June 29, 2020, please visit: <https://youtu.be/C4oFaC8nQOg>;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMoCsAXmgi8>