DECREE REGARDING MATTERS OF SACRAMENTAL AND SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE AMIDST ONGOING GRAVE CONCERNS SURROUNDING THE CORONA VIRUS (Covid-19) PANDEMIC

DIVINE WORSHIP

1. Dispensation from the Sunday Obligation and Holy Days of Obligations hereby continues to be granted and remains in effect until further notice (cf. e. 87, 1247). The Faithful, should they not attend Mass, are encouraged to devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone or as a family (cf. c. 1248). The precept to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season (Easter Duty) is hereby dispensed.

2. Permission is hereby granted for Masses of obligation and all other Masses and Liturgies to be celebrated outside a church building or outside of a sacred space (e.g. parish hall, outdoors, parking lot). (cf. c. 932).

CONFIRMATION

3. Delegation of the Special Faculty to confirm, granted to you each year from Ash Wednesday through Pentecost, is hereby extended this year until December 31, 2020 (cf. c. 384).

RCIA

4. Permission is hereby granted to celebrate Adult Christian Initiation for Catechumens on a day other than Sunday (cf. RCIA, 23 & 26).

WEDDINGS/CONVALIDATIONS

5. Permission is hereby granted for weddings to be celebrated on a Sunday, thus dispensing from our Diocesan Common Policy in this regard.

Given on this day, May 8, 2020

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Harrisburg

In witness whereof...

Mrs. Barbara A. Roth
Chancellor/Notary