



July 24, 2020

Dear Brothers,

As we move into the fifth month of modified liturgical practices, I want to thank you for your ministry during this unprecedented pandemic. Every day people send me emails, letters, and phone calls grateful for your creative generosity and service. I am inspired by your heroic efforts as you care for the faithful in such a challenging time.

Thankfully, these temporary adaptations are bearing fruit. We have been able to return to public worship and celebrate the sacraments with the people of God without our parishes becoming COVID-19 hotspots. Your perseverance under stress has been an essential part of that. For this reason, we must continue to observe the liturgical protocols previously detailed in the Office of Worship memos, which remain mandatory in the Archdiocese. A summary of our Communion directives is attached to this letter.

As has been previously stated, if a priest is unable or unwilling to follow these protocols, he should not yet resume public worship. In that case, he may continue to offer pastoral care through virtual means until either he is able to observe the current directives, or the course of the pandemic changes and we issue modified directives. If you think an exception to the protocols is warranted, please contact me and we can discuss whether this can be accommodated. Moreover, if you have suggestions how to improve our protocols, please share them with me at your earliest convenience.

Allow me to call to your attention Governor Walz's latest executive mandate concerning the wearing of masks: [executive order](#). For the latest helpful document regarding faith-based groups from the Minnesota Department of Health please visit [this link](#).

People have also been contacting the Archdiocese asking which parishes offer outdoor Masses (in parking lots or elsewhere), which offer safe viable options for some vulnerable populations. If your outdoor Mass could accommodate more people, please notify communications@archspm.org so the Archdiocese could add it to a list on our website.

And finally, good ventilation indoors mitigates the spread of airborne illness. The Minnesota Department of Health is offering grants to improve ventilation that may benefit your church. See [this link](#) for more information.

I look forward to seeing you in person or via Zoom at the Chrism Mass on July 30. Until then, please join me in praying that Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, will continue to get us through these tangled times.

With the promise of my continued prayers, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Bernard A. Hebda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis