



DIOCESE OF BOISE

DATE: March 25, 2020

TO: All Priests, Deacons, & Parish Administrators

FROM: Bishop Peter Christensen *+ Peter*

RE: Clarification for Parishes Regarding Governor Little's Stay-at-Home Order

Understandably, parishes have had questions surrounding the governor's recent proclamation that the state of Idaho observe a stay-at-home order from today until April 15th, 2020.

Specifically, you have asked whether or not your churches are to be closed to the public at this time. Many of you have been holding regular hours for Adoration, devotions, and other private prayer. As of today until April 15th, in good faith and in support of Governor Little's order, all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Boise must be closed to the public. Holy hours and all other services must be suspended until such time as the order is lifted.

Please remember that the faithful can and must pray at home for the good of the sick, for health care workers and clergy and others who put themselves in harm's way as they minister to the sick, and for the salvation and comfort of all the world at this time. Priests must also continue to offer Mass privately, on behalf of the faithful. We hope and trust that God's love and mercy will prevail, and that soon we will gather joyfully to give him thanks and praise together.

I remain most grateful to you for your patience and courage. You are a comfort to me in this time, as well as to your communities. Know that I rely upon you, and keep you in my prayers.