



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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April 29, 2021

RE: Encouraging and Welcoming Parishioners Back to Mass

Dear Brothers in Holy Orders,

As you know, on March 15, I wrote to the faithful of the archdiocese urging them to prayerfully consider returning to in-person celebration of the Mass, if they had not already done so. As more and more of the social aspects of our lives approach normalcy, so should the most important part of our lives, the communal worship of God. Nothing can adequately replace being together in person for the live celebration of the Mass, where our souls are nourished both by God's Word and the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

To that end, the archdiocesan Pastoral Center is launching TOGETHER, an initiative designed to encourage and welcome the faithful back to in-person worship and the sacraments. This effort has three primary components: Catechesis, Evangelization and Welcoming. While the latter two of these will not begin until after the dispensation from the Sunday obligation is lifted, likely sometime this summer, the Catechesis component is available now.

Please visit www.catholicaoc.org/together to access resources to help catechize your parishioners on:

- Mass as the Source and Summit of Christian Life
- The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- Sunday: Day of the Lord
- Our Obligation to Worship
- Physical Presence vs. Virtual Presence

The site includes bulletin inserts, social media posts, talking points and lesson plans for faith formation of adults and youth, homily helps, questions for individual reflection and group discussion, links to recent articles in *The Catholic Telegraph* on the five topics listed above, and a bibliography of outside resources useful for liturgical catechesis, both online and in print.

RADIATE CHRIST

Later this summer, we will be providing resources and strategies to more explicitly encourage in-person participation in Mass as restrictions are eased and church capacity grows.

Thank you for everything you have done to minister to your people over these many trying months, and for encouraging them to return as our Church and world recovers from the pandemic. May the Risen Lord continue to bring hope and healing.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dennis M. Schnurr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first letter.

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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