



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

archbishop@catholicaoc.org
513.263.6612

July 16, 2020

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Last evening, I watched with interest the address of Governor Mike DeWine regarding the recent spike in Covid-19 positive test results. I suspect that you may have done so, as well.

The governor did not introduce any new restrictions or limitations, but strongly reinforced the importance of wearing a mask when in public and observing social distancing, as well as reconsidering those gatherings that would lead people to violate those principles. I join the governor in urging vigilance on these points, all of which are contained in our current guidelines. From the beginning of the pandemic, a fundamental tenet of this archdiocese has been to follow the regulations put forth by the public health authorities in the interest of the common good. Please take this very seriously. Our cooperation as responsible citizens is needed at this time. As pastoral leaders, we need to model prudent behavior.

No one enjoys wearing a mask or having their ability to gather, worship or socialize limited in any way. It may even strike some as un-American. I understand that feeling completely. But I would ask that you prayerfully consider the perspective offered by Governor DeWine last evening, that this can be a relatively brief time of sacrifice in the interest of more quickly restoring our society to robust health physically, spiritually and financially. Such sacrifice is not unprecedented in the history of our state or country – the two world wars immediately come to mind as examples.

Our ability to maintain public celebration of the Mass may be dependent upon the counties in our archdiocese staying at health alert “Level 3” or less. The sacrifices needed seem quite modest in comparison to the benefit of continued public worship and not moving backward.

Thank you for everything you do for the faithful of this archdiocese. You are on the front lines every day dealing with issues too numerous and varied to mention. You are in my prayers; please keep me in yours, as well. May our Our Lady of Mount Carmel intercede for you and our families, friends and neighbors to know the peace and healing of her Son, Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

RADIATE CHRIST