



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

P.O. Box 23825 • Green Bay, WI 54305-3825 • 920-272-8194 • FAX 920-435-1330

April 16, 2020

Dear Priests, Pastoral Leaders, and Catechetical Leaders:

Alleluia, our Lord and Savior has risen!

I am reaching out to notify you that the Confirmations for this Spring have been officially postponed. I will delegate the faculty to confirm to priests who have a specific pastoral office. Thus, each pastor or pastoral leader with the priest celebrant will be free to determine the future date for Confirmation in your parish, one by one, as soon as it becomes feasible and safe with due regard to social distancing requirements. These requirements, still in effect, make the celebration of the Sacrament any time very soon unlikely. My hope is that by this summer we will be in a better position to gather safely in groups. However, it is still too early to make a one-size-fits-all blanket decision.

As I remove myself out of the quotient for this Spring's Confirmation, it will make the assignments of dates much more local, with the pastor. The authority to delegate Confirmations to a priest/pastor by the Bishop is understood as particularly appropriate for these kinds of circumstances.

Please share with the confirmands, I am so very sorry that I will not be able to join them at the Confirmation Masses as I greatly enjoy being with them and their families at a very important time in their lives. However, this is another one of those decisions that must be made. Even though I will not be able to be with them on the date that each Confirmation Mass was originally scheduled I will be keeping them in my thoughts and prayers.

I ask that each pastor request the delegation to Confirm after it is clear the "safe number" requirements set in place by the Governor and health officials have eased, or the number allowed to gather has increased, and after local consultation in your parish. A date can be selected by you and the request for delegation can be made by the pastor or pastoral leader to the Bishop's Office. When a date has been decided with the above provisos in place, a simple letter of request can be sent to me in writing and then I will formally, in writing, grant the delegation quickly. Requests can be made via postal service or the letter can be emailed to my assistant, Tania, at [tlefevre@gbdioc.org](mailto:tlefevre@gbdioc.org).

I have attached a handout outlining additional information regarding the postponement of the Confirmation Masses, along with instructions on how to request delegation of the pastor or priest celebrant to celebrate Confirmation at your parish.

We need to really trust the Lord, to take the steps forward in prudence and faith, and be very solicitous to our confirmands and their families. We are learning to be, even in these very unforeseen circumstances, a missionary church, guided and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

We are in the process of putting together a video regarding this decision that is for the confirmands, sponsors and parents. We will share this video with you as soon as possible and would ask that you then share it with your confirmands.

I continue to pray for all of those in our communities who are ill and for our health care workers who serve them and all of us. This is a primary opportunity not just to belong to the Church but to be the Church by safely *connecting to inspire* and by *embracing people's hearts* in very different ways.

May God bless you abundantly, as I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Ricken". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL  
Bishop of Green Bay