

Date April 27, 2020

To: Parish Pastors, Administrators, and Pastoral Leaders

From: Barry Metzentine, Parish Operations & Mission Planning Director and Tammy Basten, Chancellor

Re: Parish Trustee Elections

Hope-Filled Easter Greetings & Blessings to You and your Parish Communities!

We pray that you are well, staying healthy and finding creative, fruitful ways to engage with your parish leadership and communities in this unprecedented time. We have received a growing number of questions on the status of Parish Trustee Elections. Because many parishes have adopted the time of April through June to administer trustee elections, we want to offer these guidelines that you may discern accordingly.

The standard parish bylaws call for trustee elections to be administered at the annual parish meeting or at Sunday Mass. Given the Governor's *Safer at Home Order*, neither of these scenarios is currently possible. Fortunately we have state statutes and diocesan instructions that we can draw upon (see links below).

The controlling state statute permits existing trustees to continue to act for two years, until their successor is elected (s. 187.19(3)). Since trustees serve for two-year terms, not all parishes will have to elect trustees this year.

Given that trustees may continue until a successor is elected, we recommend that parishes postpone the trustee elections until the Fall, provided the *Safer at Home Order* is lifted by then, we will be in a position to proceed with elections per normal protocols. If you are going to proceed with the elections before then, please contact us.

If you should have any questions or concerns relative to this, please feel free to contact either one of us; we are honored to be of service to you.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as we embrace this Easter Season may we lift each other in prayer finding new joy and zeal through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and Savior; He is risen, alleluia!

In Christ,

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Resources:

[Parish Trustee Instructions \(to include Trustee Election process guidelines, p. 7\)](#)

[Updated 2017-18 Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations \(Published January 3, 2020\)](#)

Other Parish Administrative and Operational Resources are available on the Green Bay Diocese's Website:

[Parish Administration and Leadership](#)