Resuming Mass Q&A:

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

May 21, 2020

Q: Do we have to open the parish for Mass on May 26?

A: No. The Archdiocese is not mandating a parish to reopen. The Archdiocese is giving parishes permission to do so in compliance with the specific protocols provided May 8. If a parish does not feel comfortable opening for any reason, they should not open. That includes not wishing to engage in civil disobedience.

Q: What happens if we open the parish for Mass May 26 and either law enforcement is present or we are served with legal papers to cease and desist?

A: There is a proactive legal strategy being put in place that includes connecting parishes with pro bono defense counsel, if necessary. If you need that assistance, please contact Joseph Kueppers, who will refer you to a firm waiting to help. You may reach him at kueppersj@archspm.org and 651-291-4405.

Q: What if we open our parish for Mass May 26 and an employee is uncomfortable defying the governor’s executive order?

A: Parish employees who object to the defiance of the governor’s order cannot be forced to work at Masses.

Q: Is there any signage parishes should be displaying that will help notify parishioners that there are risks involved in returning to public Masses, even when precautions are taken?

A: The Archdiocese is working on such a communication to print and post in prominent places in the parish and to be posted on parish websites.