



## *Diocese of Rockford*

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Office of the Bishop

June 29, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I take this opportunity to communicate to you another step in our gradual reopening not only of the sacramental life of the Church, but also the administrative and social life of our parishes.

In the context of all of the applicable guidelines of *Back in His Presence* issued on May 15, 2020, especially those related to the wearing of masks at all times, social distancing and disinfecting, I am now authorizing parish groups to reconvene in parish halls and meeting rooms. Effective immediately, Pastoral and Finance Councils, prayer groups, Bible study, etc., may again be called together for in-person meetings with masks, social distancing and proper sanitizing in groups not to exceed 50 if space allows.

To assure safety, sharing of food and drinks at these meetings is still strictly prohibited at this time. All other gatherings not related to prayer or administration such as social gatherings, potlucks, coffee and donuts, funeral luncheons are still prohibited.

Your efforts to protect the faithful from the still-present threat of coronavirus are greatly appreciated. Please continue to respect all guidelines so our parishes can carry out the mission of the Gospel in safety and avoid a future rise in virus cases or necessary closures due to illness.

As always, I thank you for your cooperation and for the example of your priestly ministry in these challenging times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy  
Bishop of Rockford