

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Українська Католицька Архиепархія в Вінніпеґу

COVID – 19 Pandemic Archeparchy Directive # 7¹

Prot. H/07/2021

Clarification/Commentary No. 5

[28 January 2021]

Christ is Born!

Due to a slight shift in the safety measures put forward in the most recent Manitoba Public Health Order (21 January 2021)² we wish to clarify any changes in the directives that affect liturgical and pastoral life within our Archeparchial community.

1. The presence of essential personnel to lead a liturgical service or administer a Sacrament is still permitted. *Essential* would mean only such individuals that are needed for the proper performance of the event – for example: clergy, cantors, lectors, livestreaming technicians and funeral staff. Unless truly needed in extraordinary circumstances, it is asked that the number of such essential persons not exceed five (5) individuals.³
2. The in-person participation of other individuals, for the time being remains at only five (5) persons aside from the essential personnel mentioned in point 1 above.⁴ An exception is allowed, however, for funerals where the participation limit may be widened to ten (10) persons besides the above-mentioned essential personnel.⁵

We conclude not with a directive, but with a point for reflection based on recent comments made by the *Father and Head* of our Church,⁶ His Beatitude **Sviatoslav**. In an interview with a Catholic News agency of Poland (KAI),⁷ His Beatitude spoke at length about a challenge that has come to the surface as the pandemic drags on – the need to reach out to our neighbours who are starving for truly human and pastoral contact. He suggested that in spite of the conditions we must find ways to go beyond merely providing essential services. The Head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church even challenged pastors in particular by saying, *"another painful crisis related to the pandemic is the crisis of identity of a priest [in these times]. This is especially true of one... for whom being a priest means, above all, being responsible for activities related to worship, that is, to celebrate liturgies and other services. We should remember that in the times of the Soviet Union, Evangelization or social diakonia was prohibited. In these days, when a priest cannot fully fulfill his vocation as one responsible for worship, he must first of all be a pastor, that is, serve people on many levels. Our Faithful in this present difficult time need even more contact with the priest*

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and his help both in the spiritual and material dimensions." Let us take these words in no other spirit than as an *inspiration* to consider how we might realize the mission of our Church more effectively.

Dearly Beloved, It is not that far off when we will all set out on the journey of the Great Fast. I ask that all of us - lay-faithful, clergy and the men and women that live the consecrated life – will take to heart the great importance of this spiritual experience, especially in this time of pandemic. It is too early to predict what our Holy Week and Easter experience will be this year. Regardless of how this all develops, we must continue to be **People of God** and faithful members of Christ's living body the Church. There is so very much that we can do and must do in spite of restrictions and hardships. Our ancestors - even in times of economic and social depression and even the harshest *oppression* - demonstrated to us the old adage, "where there is a will, there is a way" or as our Lord assures us, "**with God, all things are possible!**" (Mt 19:26).

In the spirit of this **Year of Saint Joseph**,⁸ with full confidence, I entrust our Archeparchy to the patronage of the quiet, but determined spouse of the Mother of God - Saint Joseph, and I hope that you will do the same for your parishes and families.

Most Rev. Lawrence Huculak
Metropolitan

¹ Issued 9 November 2020 (Prot. H/97/2020)

² Effective from 23 January 2021 ([2-col Regulation template \(gov.mb.ca\)](#))

³ cf. Regional Cabinet Office Executive Council of the Government of Manitoba (13 November 2020)

⁴ PHO (21 Jan 2021), 16(3)

⁵ News Release - Manitoba (21 January 2021), [Province of Manitoba | News Releases | Province Makes Modest Changes to Provincial Public Health Orders Protecting Manitobans Effective Jan. 23 \(gov.mb.ca\)](#) **It may be pointed out that some thoughtful planning on the part of the family, the parish priest and funeral home directorship has seen funeral participation **expanded** considerably and in *compliance* with health order. This involves arranging for different groups (*i.e. partially*) to attend different phases of the funeral service - prayers (on the eve), the funeral liturgy (in church or at the home) and the interment (at the cemetery).

⁶ CCEO, c. 55

⁷ [«Суспільство захворіло на дещо більше ніж коронавірус» – Глава УГКЦ в інтерв'ю польській КАІ \(ugcc.ua\)](#)

⁸ http://archeparchy.ca/news_details.php?news_id=985