



April 10, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are in the midst of a Holy Week that is certainly different from any other Holy week that all or most of us have ever experienced. The effects of the Coronavirus have certainly made a profound impact on all of our personal lives, but also on us as a church community. Due to the “Stay at Home” Orders which the Governor and health officials mandated, I made the decision on March 17, 2020 to suspend all celebration of any public masses or liturgies in the four counties of the Diocese of Monterey, as well as to dispense “*the obligation to participate in Sunday Eucharist.*”

At the time, the hope was that we would be able to resume our public celebrations right after Easter Sunday. As you know, the “Stay at Home” orders are still in effect here in California. ***Due to this reality, I am announcing that we must continue our suspension of public gathering for Eucharist and other ritual celebrations until further notice.*** Again, the dispensation from the “*Obligation to participate in Sunday Eucharist*” is still in place.

It is my hope and prayer that the actions that we are taking here in California will have a positive effect and result in us returning to our normal celebrations as quickly as possible. I cannot state an exact date at this time.

I thank all of you for your patience and understanding for the welfare and health of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Also, I ask you to help me in thanking your priests and deacons for their attentiveness in trying to continue communication with you especially through live-streaming and recorded Sunday and daily Masses. I have been edified how they have worked to connect to their flock. Please continue to pray for your leaders, as well as for all who have been working so hard to curb the spread of this Coronavirus pandemic. May we not forget those who have lost their life in this crisis.

Your brother in Christ,

+Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey in California