

March 18, 2020
DIOCESE OF SAULT ST. MARIE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION CONTINUITY PROGRAM
Comments regarding the Diocesan Économic Impact of du COVID-19

An action plan

Observation

This is a time of unprecedented worldwide pandemic. Never before in the Diocesan history has there been a need to interrupt Eucharistic celebrations and community gatherings.

Time horizon

According to briefings provided by medical experts regarding COVID-19, this virus could take up to (10) ten weeks to subside and start decreasing. That would be until May 22, 2020. Advisors are also warning **the pandemic is going to get worse. Today there are 199 cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, 1 death in Ontario and four cases in the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.**

This is a period of escalated risk and threat for all vulnerable individuals, people aged 70 years and older, and others with compromised health.

Social Policy and Responsibility

All public bodies and authorities are recommending financial support and payroll maintenance through this risk and threat period. The reasons for this are

- A) To abide by good public policy in an attempt to create equality for all and to maintain stability,
- B) To ensure that there be no secondary victims of the virus (financial victims)
- C) To encourage compliant behavioral conduct, so that individuals do not take unacceptable risks of spreading, carrying or contracting COVID-19 through inadvisable exposure,
- D) Good economic policy, as the largest economic driver right now is consumer expenditure, which requires confidence and cash flow. This is the only way for the economy to experience as swift as possible a rebound to economic wellbeing.
- E) The government, private sector and broader public sector are all maintaining payrolls as requested by every level of government.

Economic Reality

Assume an eight-week recovery period. Who will pay the bills, where does the money come from?

A parish faces payroll, insurance, utilities, taxes, and essential maintenance expenses without any revenue.

Suggested action Plan

Communication

A program to reach out to parishioners through both email and mail to request weekly support.

The communication would be

- 1) in the form of a letter,**
- 2) from the finance committee,**
- 3) signed by all the members of the committee including the Pastor,**
- 4) mailed and emailed to each envelope user,**
- 5) enclose return envelopes for use by the donor,**
- 6) using postage paid return envelopes should be considered. There is a good reason why large charities use postage paid envelopes. The convenience factor increases participation and this is a once in a lifetime occurrence.**
- 7) also promote the PADP options**
- 8) Continued Parish Outreach and communication through mailing bulletins, and return envelopes for donations.**

Request returned donations

The donations using regular envelopes can either be dropped off at the parish (in mail box) or mailed to the parish whichever is most convenient for the parishioner.

Parish Outreach

In this particular situation it is imperative to maintain parish outreach with the faithful. This can be achieved by mailing bulletins and return donation envelopes weekly to parishioners.

Contents of the weekly bulletin or communication format could include Sunday readings, daily reading references, gospel, homilies, spiritual and inspirational articles, financial reports, any changes in parish operational particulars, as well as well as updates i.e.: prayer groups, K of C, CWL, Choir, Funeral Service Team, Building Maintenance Teams, and all other messaging including Parish Council and Finance Committees.