



DECREE

Since my decree of March 13, 2020, I have each day longed to be with you in person, to gather you together to celebrate our sacraments and to live together the struggles and losses that we have faced. We have so often been much more alone than we would like. I am grateful for the ways that we have been able to connect virtually. I am especially grateful for the ways that, with appropriate care for each other's safety, you have continued to support one another and assist the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. It is a source of great comfort to me that when you were unable to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, you received him in the poor and in those who are at risk.

And so it is with great joy that in this decree I am able to restore the sacramental life of our Church. I do so aware of the care that this requires and of the ongoing danger of COVID-19 infection. I am also aware that many, due to age or underlying conditions, will still not be able to safely gather with our communities, even for sacramental purposes. It is essential that we continue to reach out to and support these brothers and sisters in every way that we can safely stay connected to them.

In my decree of March 13, 2020, I included a dispensation for all Catholics from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation. This dispensation remains in effect under this decree and will continue until I specifically revoke it.

I have studied the situation of the nineteen counties of the Archdiocese of San Antonio in collaboration with experts and the archdiocesan COVID-19 Task Force, and with the approval of the Presbyteral Council, I Decree that, public Sunday liturgy will resume beginning the weekend of the Feast of The Ascension of the Lord, May 23-24, 2020, and that they are to be celebrated in such a way as to follow the archdiocesan directives in *Guidelines for Reopening Mass to the Public*, and the regulations of civil authorities. I further Decree that parishes may once again celebrate public daily Mass beginning May 19, 2020, in preparation for and leading up to the Feast of The Ascension of the Lord, as long as they are able to follow the same directives and regulations.

As conditions change, and with each new phase of reopening the state of Texas as ordered by civil officials, I will issue additional directives, if necessary, considering the recommendations of health authorities and civil regulations, to help Pastors, Administrators and the Catholic community of the Archdiocese ensure the health of their specific community. Additional

directives that I may issue will have the same force under this decree as the *Guidelines for Reopening Mass to the Public*.

This Decree becomes effective the 19th day of May, 2020, and remains in effect until revoked.

I ask you to continue praying so that we stay safe during the reopening process.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, in these times of tribulation we turn to you O Mother.

**See with compassion the suffering of your beloved daughters and sons
affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic throughout the entire world.**

**Ask your Son to have mercy on us bringing healing to those infected and protection to all
your children.**

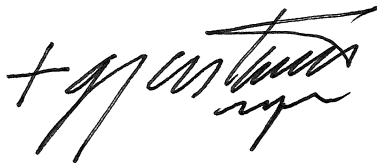
**Jesus Christ, Savior of all people, grant us courage to accompany and pray
for the entire world in the wake of sorrow and uncertainty.**

We seek refuge in you and according to your promise, deliver us from this danger.

Amen

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, this 11th day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Siller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

+Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS
Archbishop of San Antonio