OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

January 27, 2022

TO PRIESTS, PASTORAL LEADERS AND LAY FAITHFUL DIOCESE OF GRAND FALLS

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I met with the Priests and Pastoral Leaders of the Diocese to reassess our decision to suspend the public celebration of Sunday Masses due to the threat of the Omicron variant of the CoVid-19 virus. I take this opportunity to thank the Priests and Pastoral Leaders for their careful and wise input and for helping to shape the following decision.

We recognize that any restrictions effecting attendance at Sunday Mass are difficult. Yet, we cannot ignore the very real threat posed by the Corona Virus. We want to resume public celebrations of Sunday Mass, but we also want to do this safely. Therefore, the decision has been made, that public celebrations of Sunday Mass will resume as soon as any <u>one</u> of the following occur: a) we move to Alert Level 3 (or lower); b) we are allowed 50% capacity in our churches, or we are allowed up to 100 people in our churches.

I want to express my thanks to all those Priests and Parishes that are live-streaming Sunday Mass which gives us an opportunity to gather spiritually in worship and praise of God.

May Mary, the mother of God and mother of the Church, continue to intercede for an end to this pandemic.

In Christ,

Most Reverend R. Anthony Daniels

Bishop of Grand Falls.