



DIocese OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



DECREE

On 21 March 2020, I promulgated an instruction on the celebration of general confession and absolution within the Diocese of Fort Worth after the pastoral necessity of such celebrations within hospitals and nursing homes had become evident due to the spread of viral contagion within north Texas. That instruction provides norms which clarify and elaborate the methods to be observed for the valid and licit celebration of general confession and absolution, thereby obliging all confessors in the diocese during such celebrations.

In the time since promulgating that instruction, I have received pious and zealous requests from the clergy of the diocese to extend that authorization for general absolution beyond hospitals and nursing homes to also include all jails, prisons, and detention centers located within the territory. I am pleased to grant these requests *motu proprio*, and do hereby judge that the same onerous conditions of grave necessity laid out in canon 961 §1, 2° also apply to the incarcerated and detained within the diocese for the duration of the state of emergency on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, I decree that the diocesan norms laid out in the aforementioned instruction are to be likewise interpreted and diligently applied in the granting of general absolution not only for all residents, staff, and workers present inside hospitals and nursing homes within the territory, but also for similar such persons within all jails, prisons, and detention centers as well, without prejudice to the prescripts of universal and particular law as well as those liturgical adaptations already in force throughout the diocese.

Given this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2020, at Fort Worth.

*+ Michael J. Olson*

Bishop of Fort Worth

*E. James Hart*

Chancellor



THE CATHOLIC CENTER