COVID-19 UPDATE- PHASE TWO GUIDELINES - June 4, 2020

Several folks have inquired about the difference between Phase Two (June 4, 2020) and Phase One (May 31st) guidelines for reopening for in person worship. Phase One lays out the master guidelines and is still in effect. Phase Two relaxes some of the guidelines and modifies some aspects of Phase One. If Phase Two does not address something, then Phase one guidelines are still in place. Due to the increase of cases of COVID-19 statewide there is not yet a planned release date for Phase Three. If you have any questions about any guidelines, please contact Canon Scott Holcombe (sholcombe@cfdiocese.org) or cell# 321-525-2366.

A WALK OF MOURNING AND RESTORATION

On Friday, June 5, 2020, I would guess about 30-35 Episcopal clergy joined Bishop Brewer in a solemn march down Church Street from Camping World Stadium to a large open field near I-4. It was a peaceful time of prayer, scripture reading, and a reading of names of those whose lives had been snuffed out by senseless violence. There were waves of people who were let go from the staging area so as not to interrupt the flow of traffic. In the second wave, where I was located, there were several parents explaining to their children why they were there, and what this meant. It was a powerful time. You will notice in the middle of the photo (below right) is Bishop Brewer in black ankle length garment.

APPLE/MAC SURPRISE!

For those of you who are APPLE/MAC persons, you have no doubt noticed that a new Operating system has been released called “Catalina.” Usually such updates are either annoyances or something to add to the “to do” list. If you are on automatic update...you know the problem. But if you have not updated your operating system BEWARE. Catalina operates on a 64 bit platform. If you are running WORD for Mac (2011 or 2016 release- these are both 32-bit) then your version of WORD will not operate. You are invited to switch to subscription OFFICE 365, or you have the opportunity to purchase new software Office Suite/WORD for Mac 2019, or revert to your prior OS
COMPANION DIOCESE NEWS - HONDURAS COVID-19 PANDEMIC!

Things are REALLY BAD in Honduras. Access to food and availability of food in hard-hit Honduras is at crisis proportions.

On May 10, 2020, there were 1972 cases and 108 deaths.
On June 10, 2020, there were 7360 cases and 290 deaths.
By June 13, 2020, there were 8132 cases and 306 deaths.

We are for the most part inconvenienced but recovering - but our companion diocese of Honduras is hurting!

Please pray about your personal involvement in this relief effort.

I encourage you to challenge your outreach ministries and individual parishioners to rise to the occasion and join in this massive appeal for emergency relief for our sisters and brothers in Honduras.

La Nora and I sent in our contribution! It took less than a minute.

1. Text “DCF Honduras” to 73256.
2. Follow the prompts on this secure transfer.
3. Enter your amount of donation, credit card/contact information and send your gift!

Bishop Allen, the clergy and people of Honduras are depending on us to keep church doors and food distribution to those in critical need. The needs are immense and will be ongoing.

FYI: The US government has arranged a once daily flight from San Pedro Sula or Tegucigalpa to Houston to get US citizens out of the country. The State Department has advised all U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad to arrange for immediate return to the United States unless they are prepared to remain outside the United States for an indefinite period. Curfews have been imposed and shopping days are limited to the last digit of your national id card.

Even if one can shop, prices have been inflated and often store shelves are empty.

June 11, 2020 - Update on Financial Appeal for the Diocese of Honduras

The people of the Diocese of Central Florida are once again demonstrating their generosity. In just one week, you have heeded the call for assisting our companion diocese in Honduras financially during its great hour of need. In response to my June 4, 2020 appeal, you have donated $9,470.00 as of noon today. Please accept my profound thanks. Gregory O. Brewer, Bishop

Kevin Bartle at St. Mary of the Angels Preschool is looking for a new bookkeeper. It is a part-time position (in the past it has only been 1-3 hours a week), that mainly handles payroll. If you know of someone who may be interested and capable, please send them my way.

kbartle@stmaryangels.org

St. Mary of the Angels Episcopal Church, 6316 Hatchett Road, Orlando, FL 32809 (407) 855-1930

ECF Vital Practices is an amazing free resource that all Clergy and Vestry members should be signed up for. This monthly email brings you concrete, helpful information about many aspects of Vestry/Church life- for free sign up go to https://www.ecfvp.org/newsletters/view/72
Hurricane preparedness - In case you haven’t heard, Hurricane Season started June 1st. Hopefully at some time in the past your congregation has developed a hurricane readiness plan. Now would be a good time to find it in the files, dust it off and review necessary steps should a storm come your way. Obviously if you live on the coast, your risk is much greater, but even if you live inland a strong storm could mean devastating consequences. Here is a partial checklist that I developed for St David’s by the Sea in Cocoa Beach that you may find helpful.

- Create a numbered checklist of to do items with a list of who is responsible for each.
- Find out where your homebound people or single folks plan to be during the storm.
- Use a recent directory and keep track of those vacating and contact numbers where they will be during the storm and when they shall return home.
- Evacuations and hotel reservations will require more advance planning if we are still in COVID-19 social distancing, so leave early for your safe place.
- Have a communication plan to contact all parishioners after the storm passes. Determine if they have any immediate needs (especially needs that parish members may assist).
- Have A List of members with talents who would be willing and able to assist in a disaster, i.e. doctors, nurses, carpenters, electricians, etc.
- Advise the Diocesan Office, as soon as practicable, of any insurable loss and any situation and/or any injury or damage to persons or property.
- AT CHURCH- Keep in mind your high hurricane deductible, so whatever precaution you can make yourself may save thousands of dollars later.
- Go to the office and remove important files. Take your insurance file with your insurance policy. Write down the Insurance company name, phone number, email, your policy number, claims telephone number, etc.
- Back up all computers to the cloud or to external hard drives. Remove computers if possible and/or raise computer towers to tabletop height.
- Cover the pews, organ, and altar furnishings with tarps in case of roof leaks or broken windows. Tape the tarps together or down to the floor just in case windows.
- Remove altarware (silver and brass) to a secure location (consider Altar Guild director’s home, a gun safe or lockable closet at Church.
- Take bottom file drawers out of the cabinets and place on a counter, cover with plastic, tarp.
- In freezer compartment take a small mixing bowl and freeze about 2 cups of water in it. The next day place a quarter on top if the ice in the mixing bowl. Place back in the freezer. When you come back after the storm, check the quarter. If it is resting on top of the ice then your refrigerator/freezer did not lose power, or had a minimal amount of time with power loss. Your food is likely safe. If the quarter has sunk into the ice any depth, that means you had significant power loss and it is recommended that all food in the refrigerator/freezer be discarded. Check your insurance policy to see if food loss is covered.
- Any “loose” items outside should be secured or brought inside.
- Protect stained glass or other windows if at all possible, but do not tape the glass - it has been proven to be ineffective.
- For more information NOW (i.e. Don’t wait for a storm)

  go to http://www.cfdiocese.org/disaster-plan/
It is mid-June- What should I be doing right now

1. We are almost halfway through the fiscal year. Sit down with your treasurer and wardens and take a REALLY close look at your church finances.

2. How are you doing with income and expenses? Look closely at the income side. Are there certain pledging units that are significantly down from last year? This may reveal some pastoral need (loss of a job, financial responsibilities changing, supporting a grown child, etc.)

3. Do you have investment income? If so, how are your investments doing?

4. Do a cash projection for the remainder of the year. Are there any Operating budget adjustments that need to be made? If so a Revised Narrative budget should be prepared to share with the congregation to explain current needs of the parish and trends discovered in the first half of the year. Consider having a mid-year Annual Meeting!

5. Are your Stewardship plans in place for the fall? Check with the Stewardship Chair to make sure commitments made during pre-COVID-19 times can still be met at this time.

6. If you are planning some vacation time during the rest of the summer get your supply clergy NOW. Some of our retired clergy are not doing supply in this COVID-19 Era and are still in quarantine. Many clergy are finding it increasingly difficult to find supply clergy!


8. Summer is a great time to declutter things around the church. Take a walk around your facility and look at it as though you are a newcomer seeing it for the first time. What looks tired or dirty? If you didn’t know where the restrooms were, could you find them? Keep a list of those items that you discover that you “plan to use one day” or “this could go in a yard sale right now.” GET RID OF THEM!

9. Do some long range planning. Think about this fall or Advent. Plan a preaching or teaching series and do your prep work now!

10. Consider reducing office hours to part time or 4 days a week. Most budgets need some relief about now. Some staff may be delighted to have more time off during the summer even if there is a slight reduction in pay.

11. Consider your own mental health. Are there issues with which you need to deal? Are there family members that could benefit from therapy? If you are a full-time clergyperson employed by the church and covered by the Church health insurance you are eligible for the EAP- Employee assistance Program that has some amazing benefits. Check out: https://www.cpg.org/active-clergy/insurance/health-and-wellness/additional-benefits/employee-assistance-program/

Any questions or comments about Canon News 2020? Contact Canon Scott Holcombe at sholcombe@cfdiocese.org or 321-525-2366