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March 30, 2020

Governor Laura Kelly
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

The onset of Covid-19 and threats to public health are presenting unique challenges on many levels. The purpose of this letter is to express our gratitude for designating as essential functions the performance or attendance of religious or faith-based services or activities included as part of Executive Order NO. 20-16. We appreciate the recognition that Religious Liberty is a universal right, in principle and in practice, as noted in your Executive Order.

Earlier this month, all Bishops of the Catholic Church in Kansas suspended the Obligation of the faithful to attend the Sunday celebration of the Mass and directed the cessation of public celebration of Mass. These were measures taken prior to the issuance of the various state and local “stay at home” orders. We continue to consult with medical professionals and are updating and addressing appropriate social distancing practices as needed.

While striving to continue to minister to our people through technology and every other available means, we are committed to observe all the protective measures you have requested to protect the public health. We have encouraged our people, not only for their own safety, but to manifest charity for others, to observe social distancing, good hygiene and the number limitation for any gathering.

Our Catholic hospitals, clinics, and skilled nursing homes are striving to provide the best medical care possible for those afflicted by Covid-19. At the same time, our Catholic Charities agencies are attempting to provide material assistance to those who are economic victims of the shutdown of much of our economy.

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.
Board Chairman
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND CARL A. KEMME, D.D.
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

MOST REVEREND GERALD L. VINCKE, S.T.L.
DIOCESE OF SALINA

CHUCK WEBER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Please know that we are eager to assist your efforts to protect the people of Kansas from this public health threat as well as with meeting the basic needs of all Kansans. Please call on us, if we are able to assist you in other ways. Be assured of our prayers for you and the decisions you must make during this difficult time in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Bishop John B. Brungardt
Diocese of Dodge City

Bishop Car IA. Kemme
Diocese of Wichita

Bishop Gerald L. Vincke
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