



5 Tips for Diocesan Leaders in Times of Crisis

1. Create a Diocesan COVID-19 Response Team

- a. Form a team with senior leaders (which could include Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, CFO, Communications Director, Human Resources Director, etc.)
- b. Develop a mechanism to identify critical needs and prioritize responses
- c. Create a swift, coordinated decision-making process for implementation

2. Support Priests and Other Pastoral Leaders

- a. Contact each pastor to provide pastoral care and inquire about financial, personnel, and community needs
- b. Prioritize the safety of Catholics by ensuring parishes are in compliance with diocesan and local government pandemic guidelines

3. Address Financial Management and Stewardship

- a. Assess diocesan and parish financial realities and projections
- b. Equip the diocese and parishes for online giving
- c. Connect regularly with your major donors and communicate your needs
- d. Proactively contact suppliers and negotiate deferred payments that reflect your cash flow
- e. Identify government support options for your diocesan entities

4. Focus on Strategic Communications

- a. Pull together your crisis communications team and implement your crisis communications plan
- b. Identify key audiences and the most effective mediums for communication
- c. Convey a consistent message across different audiences and platforms

5. Maximize Opportunities for Ministry

- a. Ensure parishes have the capacity for streaming Masses and other services
- b. Create an array of print or online resources for people to join in prayer
- c. Promote care for the most vulnerable through established ministries such as Catholic Charities