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

Visit leadershiproundtable.org/covid for further resources or contact our program manager, Peter Denio, for customized support and solutions 201.739.2674 or peter@leadershiproundtable.org.