



Diocese of Reno

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Office of the Bishop

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STATEMENT FROM BISHOP CALVO

Advisory statement (excerpts) from the Vatican on the use of general absolution for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (3/20/20)

"The gravity of the present circumstances [COVID 19 pandemic] call for reflection on the urgency and centrality of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, together with some necessary clarifications, both for the lay faithful and for ministers called to celebrate the Sacrament...

"This Apostolic Penitentiary believes that, especially in the places most affected by the pandemic contagion and until the phenomenon recedes, the cases of serious need mentioned in can. 961, par. 2 of the [Code of Canon Law] will occur.

"Any further specification is delegated by law to diocesan bishops, always taking into account the supreme good of the salvation of souls (cf. can. 1752 [of the Code of Canon Law])."

I have already granted this faculty to all priests in the diocese and specified its use given the requirements of social distancing between confessor and penitent and between penitents as well as the restriction regarding the number of people who may gather in a given space. The following information from the Vatican may be comforting and helpful during this difficult time.

Perfect Contrition

"Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by a "votum confessionis", that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 1452)."