



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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## MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon

Date: April 8, 2021 *+R.G.*

Re: Clarifications to Faith Gatherings

### Faith Gatherings

We recently received a clarification from the official government liaison to communities of faith regarding retreats, youth group gatherings, pastoral meetings (Parish Council, Parish Finance Council, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Couples for Christ, etc.), catechism classes, RCIA, and other religious gatherings. These events are still considered "Faith Gatherings" but must now be conducted in a church facility and must precede or follow a prayer service or Mass. The restriction to Faith Gatherings remains at 25% of the capacity of the building, or 100 people, whichever is fewer.

The reason for this change is to avoid confusion for Public Health Inspectors, and so to decrease any chance that a parish may be fined for contravening public health orders. Faith Gatherings are to be differentiated from meetings held purely for the purpose of administration, which continue to have a restriction of five (5) people.

### Outdoor Gatherings While in a Vehicle

Recent public health orders now allow those within a motor vehicle, while participating in a religious gathering, to leave their vehicle for a brief period of time. As before, only those belonging to the same household are allowed to be in a given vehicle. In addition, those who leave their vehicle must maintain physical distancing and sanitizing procedures at all times.

Thank you very much.