

## PROTOCOLS FOR THE USAGE OF CONFESSIONALS AND RECONCILIATION ROOMS UNDER COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND RESTRICTIONS

On the use of the confessional or reconciliation room during this prolonged pandemic, they should be used with the following considerations:

- both priest and penitent wear their mask,
- hand sanitizer is located outside the confession room for use,
- that a periodic wiping with disinfectant of the door handles to the reconciliation room or confession,
- that a periodic wiping with disinfectant of the screen divider surface and arm rests of the chair,
- that a periodic wiping with disinfectant of the plex-screen if one is present.

For face to face confessions, whether in the reconciliation room or in a public space:

- allow a comfortable distance between the priest and the penitent (2 meters might be too much).
- You might consider a plex-glass divider between the priest and penitent, but that might compromise the ability of the priest or the penitent to clearly understand or hear each other. I leave this for you to decide, considering the long-term necessity-practicality, the cost and the availability, etc.
- Allow greater distance between those waiting to go to confession and the confession location in open areas (for privacy and confidentiality).

*If you have been making use of your confessionals or reconciliation rooms of late or throughout this pandemic, let me stress that these areas be regularly sanitizes with recommended solutions and that the above recommendations be followed.*