



## **Diocesan offices continue work on limited basis**

**EVANSVILLE, INDIANA – MARCH 25, 2020** – On March 24, Evansville Bishop Joseph M. Siegel released the following statement regarding Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb’s March 23 Executive Order closing non-essential businesses across the state.

“We thank Gov. Holcomb for his proactive steps to help prevent Hoosiers’ potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus and reduce its impact across our state. We strongly urge all people to follow the provisions of his Executive Order. At the same time, we also thank him for emphasizing the importance of religious and charitable organizations in providing critical spiritual support to all in need, especially the most vulnerable.”

In his Executive Order, Gov. Holcomb specifically included “Organizations that Provide Charitable and Social Services”, and “Religious Entities” in the definition of Essential Businesses and Operations that are exempted from the order (cf, #14, d & e).

Out of an abundance of caution, the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center is closed to the public until further notice. However, based on the essential-businesses definition, the Diocesan offices will continue to function on a limited basis.

Bishop Siegel added, “The pastors of our parishes will determine if and when parish offices should be closed, and for how long, based on the needs of their parishioners and the local situation. Regardless of potential office closures, the spiritual and pastoral care of the faithful will continue across our 12 counties, albeit in different ways than normal as we continue to observe the guidelines provided by the CDC and local health agencies.

“I ask that we continue to pray for everyone suffering from this terrible illness and those who are caring for them. May God watch over them, and may he guide the work of those seeking effective treatments and preventive vaccines, along with that of our health and government officials.”

Further updates will be posted online as they become available.

**Stay up-to-date through websites, social media**

Today’s 24-hour news cycle is not kind to print newspapers like The Message.

**The information in the March 27, 2020, print edition was current as of Wednesday morning, March 25. As we all know from recent developments, a lot can change in 24-48 hours.**

With that in mind, **please stay connected to us online for** the latest information:

- **Diocese of Evansville:** <http://www.evdio.org/>
- **The Message:** <https://evdiomessage.org/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicMessage/>
- **Instagram:** @themessageonline
- **Twitter:** @messageonline