Office of the

Director of Ministries

Diocese of Dallas

June 1, 2020

Dear Pastors and Administrators,

I hold each of you and your faith communities in my prayers daily for continued safety and protection during this COVID-19 times we are all living with both personally and professionally. I wanted to share with you some Ministry program updates that have taken place during this time of transition and uncertainty. We are being guided both by local civil and health authorities as well as parish ministers working in each of our parishes.

The **University of Dallas Ministry Conference** will be canceled for this coming year as a result of financial constraints both at the Diocesan and University levels as well as concern for maintaining social distancing, which would not be possible with such a large gathering at this time. The Ministry offices will be planning and offering online formation and training in partnership with the Neuhoff School of Ministry and other institutions.

The **Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference** will also be canceled for 2021 as a result of financial constraints both at the diocesan and parish level as well as concern for having large numbers of our young people and staff gathered at one event. The Youth office will be planning creative ways to engage young people in virtual events throughout the year.

As we work closely with all the parish ministers and listen to their concerns regarding all areas of pastoral ministry, the Ministry office will be offering online training and formation for parish ministers in the coming months. Ministry staff are more than willing to participate in your parish in-person gatherings as long as they are comfortable being present when there are 20 or more people who attend. I always have their safety and protection as my main concern as I have for your parish staff and volunteers.

Please know that the entire Ministry staff, as well as myself, are here to assist and walk with you and your parish community in whatever way we can during this time of transition into the unknown. I do believe God is guiding our journey together.

Prayers and support,



Sister Theresa Khirallah

Director of Ministries