



Five Critical Questions to Consider Regarding Non-Liturgical Parish Events/Gatherings (July 1, 2020)

1. Is this event/gathering central to our mission?
2. Has this been approved by the pastor and other key stakeholders?
3. Are our vulnerable populations protected?
4. Can the safety of participants be safeguarded entering, during and leaving the event/gathering?
5. Is sanitation and cleaning before and after the event/gathering provided for?

The assumption is that all parish-approved non-liturgical gatherings are:

- essential for the mission of the Church;
- necessary for the operation of the parish; and
- capable of following the necessary safety guidelines mandated by the State of Indiana/CDC.

Assuming the above questions have been answered affirmatively, a checklist has been developed to better assist in ensuring the safety and well-being of the participants.

Back on Track Indiana Plan

Back on Track Indiana Plan Stage 4.5 (7/3-7/17)
Those 65 and older and those with known medical conditions should adhere to social distancing guidelines and remain cautious at work and in their communities.
Face coverings are recommended. Residents should continue to practice social distancing and good hygiene.
Social gatherings of 250 people may take place following CDC social distancing guidelines.
No travel restrictions.
Opportunities to work remotely should continue to be provided as needed.

* Per the CDC, “social distancing, also called ‘physical distancing,’ means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing: stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people; do not gather in groups; and stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings. Limit close contact with others outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you—or they—have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.”

Until after 9/7/2020, the Diocese of Gary is asking parishes and schools to refrain from renting out halls and other facilities so that the focus of their attention is to get “back on track” for their own members before extending themselves to outside groups. Also, it will be very difficult to ensure proper social distancing and proper sanitizing at such non-parish events at this time.