

[SCHOOL NAME WITHIN ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES]

Our Lady of the Light Catholic Church – Within the Diocese of Las Cruces
P.O. Box 236 La Luz New Mexico 88337

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING,
CONSENT FORM AND LIABILITY WAIVER FOR STUDENTS

STUDENT: _____

PARISH: _____

LEGAL PARENTS/GUARDIANS: _____

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic and is extremely contagious. As a result, in order to resume Parish Religious Education Classes, social distancing and other essential safety measures at Our Lady of the Light Religious Education Center have been established. The parish has put in place reasonable preventative measures and standards of behavior to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during religious education classes. Even with implementation of safety protocols, the Parish cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19 while attending religious education classes and/or participating in the church activities could increase your risk and/or your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I/we acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that my/our child(ren) and I/we may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending /or by participating in religious education classes and church activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I/we understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the above-named Parish Religious Education program may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself/ourselves and others, including, but not limited to Catechists, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

I/we further agree on behalf of myself/ourselves, my/our child (student) named herein, and my/our heirs, successors, and assigns, to absolutely release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Our Lady of the Light Religious Education Program and Our Lady of the Light Parish, its Religious Education Director, Catechists, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, their priests, bishops, members, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents and representatives ("Indemnitees") associated with the parish and arising from or in connection with any alleged negligent acts or omissions of the Indemnitees, from any and all claims and causes of action in any way related to attendance, including but not limited to any claims of negligent exposure.

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By execution of this Statement, I affirm that I have read the following questions:

1. Have you had a fever (100.4°F or higher) during the past 24 hours?
2. Have you had a new or unexpected cough during the past 7 days?
3. Have you been around anyone exhibiting these symptoms within the past 14 days?
4. Are you living with anyone who has been sick, has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or is currently under quarantine for exposure to COVID-19?

By execution of this Statement, I affirm that I have read the foregoing questions, and, on my child's behalf, affirm that my answer is "No" to each of the foregoing questions. I understand that if my answer to any of the foregoing questions on any given day of religious education classes is "Yes," my child is not permitted to attend those classes.

I understand that, in the event my child develops symptoms or suspected symptoms of COVID-19, I will be contacted by the Director of Religious Education (DRE) or the Catechists and I will make immediate preparations to have my child picked up from the Religious Education Center. In the event of a medical emergency, I authorize the DRE or Catechists to call 9-1-1 and have my child transported to a hospital or healthcare facility. I further understand and affirm that the Religious Education staff have discretion to determine whether a student is ill, or potentially contagious, and whether it is in the best interests of the student, students, and catechists, and Parish, to mandate that a child/student be picked up from the Religious Education Center at the time of that determination.

I further understand that, in the event that my child contracts COVID-19 or becomes exposed to someone with COVID-19, my child will need to be quarantined as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC").

I understand that Catechists and students may not return to religious education classes until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation:

A. If a sick staff member or student suspects or knows they had COVID-19, and had symptoms, they may return to classes after:

1. 3 days with no fever, with no fever-reducing medication and
2. Symptoms improved and
3. 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Depending on a student or catechist's healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, they might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. If tested, they may return to school when they have no fever, symptoms have improved, and they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

B. If a sick catechists or student tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, and continue to have no symptoms, the catechists or student may return to Religious Education classes after: 10 days have passed since test.

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Depending on a catechists or student's healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, they might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. If tested, they may return to school after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

If a catechists or student has a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication, additional precautions may need to be taken. People with conditions that weaken their immune system might need to stay home longer than 10 days. Students and Catechists are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider for more information. If testing is available, it may be recommended by a healthcare provider. A student or Catechist may return to the religious education program after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

If testing is not available in the area, the student or catechist's doctor should work with an infectious disease expert at the local health department to determine if they are likely to spread COVID-19 to others and need to stay home longer.

C. For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19

I understand that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 may not return to the religious education program for 14 days after exposure.

I understand and hereby authorize the Our Lady of the Light Religious Education Program to enforce such other reasonable measures and directives as may be deemed necessary by the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Cruces, Pastor Fr. Marcel Okonkwo, pastor of Our Lady of the Light and Alicia McAninch, Director of Religious Education.

By execution of this Statement, I understand and agree to the foregoing terms and conditions.

Legal Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Legal Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____