



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203

### Concerning the Eucharistic Precept or “Easter Duty”

*(In the time of COVID-19)*

**March 23, 2020**

Many faithful are aware of the Eucharistic Precept or “Easter Duty” and their annual obligation to fulfill it. In this time of COVID-19, we are presented with serious challenges, including the potential limitation to fulfill said precept or duty in a timely manner.

Referring to Canon 920 of the Code of Canon Law, all of the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Eucharist, are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. In the dioceses of the United States of America, the time for fulfilling one’s Easter duty is from the First Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday inclusive (that is, in 2020, from the evening of February 29 to the evening of June 7). For a just cause, this precept may be fulfilled at another time during the year.

Should the current difficulties extend beyond the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, rendering impossible the fulfillment of the Easter duty, this precept can be fulfilled later, once public celebrations resume.

**With the express approval of Bishop Scharfenberger, given at the Chancery: March 23, 2020**



*We are God’s people sharing a responsibility to witness God’s unconditional love  
and to bring Christ’s healing presence to our world.*