



December 9, 2020

Dear Pastors,

Office of the Vicar General

After having met with a sub-committee of Pastors who have the Apostolado de María en la Iglesia Doméstica at their parish along with Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Chancellor Marioly Galván, and Vice-Moderator of the Curia Rodrigo Valdivia, the committee proposed that the Diocese issue a policy that would assist the pastor in providing adequate support in directing lay apostolic groups such as this. Through the discussion, as for the time being, we believed these guidelines would give pastors a direction to implement in their parishes.

The following are the essential elements the diocesan policy and charter will detail for Pastors:

- Pastors direct involvement with the group
- Selection of a leader for the group with (3) year- term limits
- Monitoring financial reports from the group
- Groups must maintain focus on charism
- Have the knowledge of the material goods
- Follow diocesan policy on pre-approving guest speakers (need to be vetted) even via zoom
- For larger events, follow Diocesan protocol

With this policy, I am hopeful each Pastor will find the guidance needed to assist the Apostolado de María en la Iglesia Doméstica and all other lay apostolic groups or movements to be fruitful in their respective ministries. The policy updates may be found on the Diocesan website under Policy Handbook.

Note: Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Chancellor Marioly Galván and I met with Doris Vargas, Celina Casillas and Lorena Ramirez on December 7, 2020 to discuss the restructuring of the Apostolado de María en la Iglesia Doméstica as a parish based group. This new format no longer involves their coordination or participation in the general planning. We encourage Pastors who have not already appointed a parish coordinator to do so. Please follow the policy and charter to begin the planning for the Apostolado de María en la Iglesia Doméstica in the parish.

Previously, I had allowed the group to continue to pray the rosary via Zoom. Any additional activities beyond this, must be approved by the Pastor.

If you have further questions, I am happy to respond to your needs for your parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Pham".

Very Rev. Michael Pham
Vicar General