



May 27, 2020

Dear beloved of Christ,  
Christ is risen.

With the Grace of God, it appears the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to recede prompting the CDC to relax its guidance on dealing with this crisis. State and local governments have responded by opening up the economy and permitting slightly larger gatherings while maintaining protective measures. While complying with all guidelines and governmental orders, we too will increase attendance in the Diocese Churches as we continue to uphold all the rules published in our previous message. The new limits on attendance of the Liturgy at Diocese Churches by State are:

- a. North Carolina – 30
- b. South Carolina – 30
- c. Kentucky – 30
- d. Virginia – 50

These new limits are effective **Saturday, May 30, 2020**, and indicate maximum capacity while maintaining all required social distancing measures. If a Church's size or seating configuration does not permit this maximum number to attend and ensure social distancing, a lower limit will be imposed by the Church Priest.

**At all times and until further notice all rules and regulations announced in our previous message will be strictly enforced.**

The Priest of each Church will announce this new arrangement to his congregation and will inform them of any update to the Liturgical services weekly schedule and will continue to invite families to the Liturgies on a rotating basis.

May God bless and protect all of you,  
Bishop Peter  
Bishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of North & South Carolina & Kentucky.  
And Papal Vicar of the Churches of Virginia.