

Opening up in phases:

On Tuesday afternoon, the Lafayette Diocese published a news brief on KATC, "Diocese Working on Plans to Re-open When the Time Comes". The brief goes on to say, this will happen when the Governor and all civil authorities decide the time is here. Then Blue Rofles, the director of communications goes on to say, they are putting together a detailed plan in place so that pastors know what to do. In her briefing she goes on to say, a detailed plan has to be created and many factors have to be addressed but the primary concern for the Diocese is that Churches are reopened safely. Below are some of the chief concerns outlined by Blue Rofles in her article, here I quote a few of the most critical ones, they are the following:

- 1) The Health of the parishioners!
- 2) The Health of the priests!
- 3) All buildings must be sanitized!
- 4) All plans have to be adjusted to accommodate the state's orders!
- 5) It's going to require advance planning of all the pastors!

During Holy Week, we received a detailed letter from Bishop Deshotel, and those guidelines angered many people, some were confused and many just wandered. To balance the safety and health of the people was and is the key. The decision maker, the Bishop had one chance; those who stand on the sidelines have no pressure on what they choose right are wrong.

As we live through this, normal will not be the normal we know and live, we are in the process of creating a new normal. In our challenge ahead, there will be more difference, normal will be a newness finding a place in our freedom and all of a sudden we realize we are not as free as we thought. At this time let us pray for a vaccine, our medical personnel, patience, creative leadership, putting worship and people before politics and personalities. As I close, we have a lot to pray for and respond to during this great challenge, Lord help us. Stay safe and be healthy.