



PRESS RELEASE

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*2 pages /2 photos
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Myeongdong Cathedral has resumed confessions in the anti-COVID confessionals



[Photo 1] The confessionals of Myeongdong Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Seoul

Confessions have resumed at Myeongdong Cathedral starting on Tuesday, November 3rd having built specially adapted confessionals that will keep both priests and penitents safe from the COVID-19 virus.

The confessionals had been closed since February this year due to the pandemic as the virus is most easily spread in aerosols in closed spaces.

Accordingly, the Archdiocese of Seoul has reorganized the operating procedures and facilities for confessions in order to adhere to public health guidelines enacted for the prevention of the spread of

the COVID-19 virus, including hygiene and sanitation measures.



[Photo 2] Inspection of the Reorganized confessionals

The space for the priest and penitent in the confessional booth is now completely separated, while the ventilation system has been modified to prevent transmission of the virus via air. Furthermore, a sneeze guard made of plexiglas has been installed in each booth as a physical barrier between the priest and the penitent to reduce exposure to respiratory droplets. Also after each confession, the whole booth is to be sprayed down with disinfectant before the next penitent proceeds to confession.

Fr. Young-yup Hur, Spokesman of the Archdiocese of Seoul & Vice-chairperson of the Committee for Communications, commented: “Our community of faith has been facing very difficult times as the COVID-19 crisis prolongs. Reopening of the confessionals fully equipped with such facilities is a part of our efforts to provide pastoral care for the faithful. To make the crisis into an opportunity, I hope there will be more effective attempts in the field of pastoral ministry in preparation for the post-COVID-19 era. [END]

Confessions:

Tuesday-Friday: 11:00am-06:00pm

Saturday: 11:00am-07:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am-07:00pm