



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada
Українська Католицька Єпархія Торонта й Східної Канади

Ref YYZ 20200320:1

March 21, 2020

**To the Reverend Clergy, Members of Religious Orders and Faithful of the
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada:**

DECREE ON GENERAL ABSOLUTION

In virtue of canon 720, §3 of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, and considering that the faithful are genuinely and truly impeded from access to ministers and the celebration of the sacraments, and considering that this situation will endure for a period of at least several weeks, as Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, it is hereby decreed:

1. Grave necessity exists for the administration of General Absolution.
2. General Absolution is to be administered, except in danger of death, only by the pastor.
3. Prior to the administration of General Absolution, pastors are required to follow the prescription of canon 721, namely:
 - a. The faithful are to be properly disposed, that is, they must undergo some preparation for general absolution such as a reconciliation service or instruction, even brief instructions, to ensure contrition
 - b. The faithful require intention to confess these individual sins, that is, they must prepare, be aware of these sins, and be aware of the obligation to confess them in the ordinary fashion at a later date;
 - c. The faithful are to make an act of contrition.

Pastors are encouraged to make individual and integral confession available while taking into account the recommended distancing and protective measures suggested by local, provincial, and federal health authorities. A large private area or outside is reasonable.

These instructions are in place until such time they are revoked.

Given this 19th day of March 2020

In Christ,

Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR

Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada