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**CENSUS 2020: An Archdiocese of New York Response**

**FAQ’S: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CENSUS2020**

**When is Census Day? April 1, 2020**

**What is the Census and why is it important?**

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. It is essential that every person is counted within each household regardless of citizenship status. Census data is critical to ensuring that all communities are properly represented and cared for. The information collected through the Census helps to determine the number of political representation and funding for many safety-net programs such as education, infrastructure, Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8 Housing, and other government aid.

**How Can I Complete the Census?**

There are four (4) ways to complete the Census. You can self-respond online, by phone, or by mail. If you do not self-respond, you will be visited by a Census Worker.

**What happens first?**

Most people will receive a postcard directing them to respond online. Some people will also receive a printed form in the initial mailing

**What happens if I don’t respond?** By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Every household that does not respond will receive reminders. In May, the Census Bureau will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted. The fine for refusing to answer the survey can be as much as $5,000.

**Who Counts as Part of Your Home?**

If you are filling out the census for your home, you should count everyone who is living there as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1, and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census.

**Is the Census anonymous?** Under current federal law, the bureau cannot share census responses identifying individuals with the public or other federal agencies, including immigration authorities and other law enforcement, until 72 years after the information is collected. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census or survey information that identifies an individual or business. This is true even for inter-agency communication: the FBI and other government entities do not have the legal right to access this information. In fact, when these protections have been challenged, Title 13's confidentiality guarantee has been upheld.

**Does my immigration status matter?** No!Census protects your identity with the protection of federal law, regardless of immigration status. We just need an accurate population count.

**Who is hard to count?** The Census Bureau recognizes a range of sociodemographic and other groups as hard-to-count. The following persons, many served or engaged by the Archdiocese of New York, are at risk of being undercounted in the 2020 census. These individuals are considered hard-to-locate; hard-to-contact; hard-to-persuade; and/or hard-to-interview.

* Complex households including those with blended families, multi-generations, or non-relatives
* Displaced persons affected by a disaster
* Low income persons
* Persons experiencing homelessness
* Persons less likely to use the Internet and others without Internet access
* Persons residing in places difficult for enumerators to access, such as basement apartments
* Persons who do not live in traditional housing
* Persons who do not speak English fluently (or have limited English proficiency)
* Persons who have distrust in the government
* Persons with mental and/or physical disabilities
* Undocumented immigrants (or recent immigrants)
* Young children