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October 6, 2020

To: All CYO Basketball Coordinators

Re: CYO Fall High School Basketball
CYO Girls Basketball
CYO Boys Basketball

Dear Coordinators:

Thank you for all you do for CYO and we pray that you and your families are well during these difficult times. I want to thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our youth in the Diocese.

Gym availability and the regulatory environment are two critical issues that determine the availability of our programs; and both of these elements are beyond our control. In the week leading up to registration for HS Basketball, we lost a number of gyms that we had been counting on as we attempted to return to Sports as Ministry through our Fall Programs. In a large number of cases, it has been communicated to us that a re-evaluation of the use of Parish gyms in January 2021 will likely make more gyms available for our Girls and Boys Basketball Programs.

Therefore, with the aforementioned as our assumptions with regard to greater gym availability and the NYSDOH designating January as an approved time table for the start of basketball; we are making the following announcements:

The Fall High School Basketball Program has been cancelled.

The Girls Basketball Program will commence the first week of January 2021. Parish Registration and Gym Availability forms will be due December 1, 2020 with the goal of starting play in early January. The submission of specific team rosters will be due in mid-to-late December, with more details to follow.

The Boys Basketball Program will commence in late January with Parish Registration and Gym Availability Forms due December 1, 2020 with the goal of starting play in late January. The submission of team rosters will be due in the beginning of January, with more details to follow.

Gym availability will continue to be an issue, and therefore, preference will be given to Parishes that have a gym that is available for scheduling games. We will make every attempt to register teams that do NOT have a gym available for their own use, but we cannot promise that those teams will be registered to play. There is a physical limitation to how many teams can play a FULL SEASON playing as a VISITING team; and then there are restrictions on the availability of gyms that are open to this concept.

Let me also talk about the concept of Playoffs. Given the size of the Basketball Programs, we have historically relied upon Parishes that DO NOT make the Playoffs to donate gym space. I am concerned that Parish gym space will be restricted to Parish teams, which is understandable

for the control and enforcement of the protocols and the safety of all stakeholders. CYO has not made a decision with regard to Playoffs, but I want to make everyone aware of this practical observation

Lastly, every time we shift a program back several weeks or months, it has the effect of impacting other programs that occur later in the year. With thousands of children and teams, the logistics are difficult in a normal year, much less in the current environment.

The pandemic cancelled Girls Volleyball last year, and we do not want to see changes made to the Basketball schedule prevent CYO from having a Girls Volleyball Program this year. Our objective is to do everything we can to have a Girls Volleyball Program this program year.

Feel free to contact me via email or phone me at 516-388-5944 if you have any questions. I would also ask you to check our website for the best information on our programs.

Thank you again for all you do for CYO.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Echausse