

[Skip to main content](#)



Menu: Top Buttons

- [Store](#)
- [Help Now](#)
- [Readings](#)
- [Search](#)

Menu: Top

- [Daily Readings](#)
- [Find a Parish](#)
- [Report Abuse](#)

Main navigation

- [Daily Readings](#)
- About USCCB
 - [Our Role & Mission](#)
 - [Strategic Plan](#)
 - [Leadership](#)
 - [Bishops and Dioceses](#)
 - [Offices & Committees](#)
 - [General Assemblies](#)
 - [Financial Reporting](#)
 - [Careers](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Contact](#)
- Prayer & Worship
 - [Prayer](#)
 - [The Mass](#)
 - [Sacraments](#)
 - [Liturgy of the Hours](#)
 - [Liturgical Year & Calendar](#)
 - [Music & Art](#)
- Bible
 - [Understanding the Bible](#)
 - [Books of the Bible](#)
 - [Approved Translations](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [Study Materials](#)
 - [The Bible in Liturgy](#)
 - [Bible Permissions](#)
- Issues & Action
 - [Topics](#)
 - Act Now

- [Help Now](#)
- [Take Action](#)
- [Contact Public Officials](#)
- [Meetings & Events](#)
- [Get Connected](#)
- [Pray](#)
- News
 - [Newsroom](#)
 - [Catholic News Service](#)
 - [Public Affairs](#)
- Resources
 - [Resource Library](#)
 - [Get Connected](#)
 - [Subscribe](#)
 - [Movie Reviews](#)
 - [Events Calendar](#)
 - [Parish Resources](#)



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

U.S. Bishops Vote to Hold November Meeting Virtually

August 28, 2020 By [Public Affairs Office](#)

WASHINGTON—Each November, the bishops of the United States gather for their General Assembly in Baltimore. Earlier this month after consultation with the Holy See, the bishop-members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted to approve the convocation of this annual November meeting in a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a vote of 219 to 5 (1 abstaining), the bishops decided to meet in a virtual format rather than the usual in person meeting. The agenda will be finalized by the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, set to meet in mid-September.

Earlier this year, the Administrative Committee [voted to cancel](#) their Spring Assembly out of concern for the health, well-being, and safety of the bishops, staff, observers, guests, affiliates, volunteers, contractors, and media involved with the general meetings in the wake of the novel coronavirus. It marked the first cancellation of a plenary assembly in the Conference's history.

The bylaws of the Conference state that a plenary assembly is to be convened at least once a year, and conducting the November meeting in virtual format fulfills this requirement. More information will be made available as the details of the virtual meeting are finalized and will be posted to <https://www.usccb.org/meetings>.

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Media Contact:
[Chieko Noguchi](#)
202-541-3200

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- [Catechesis](#)
- [Catholic Education](#)
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- [Books of the Bible](#)
- [Prayer](#)
- [Liturgical Year & Calendar](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Liturgy of the Hours](#)
- [The Mass](#)

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- [Take Action](#)
- [Help Now](#)
- [Meetings & Events](#)
- [Pray](#)

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- [Parish/Mass Finder](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [E-mail Signup](#)
- [Social Media](#)
- [Catholic News Service](#)

- [Movie Reviews](#)

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