



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Bridgeport

DECREE

+ In the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

In accord with the immemorial practice of the Church, the Code of Canon Law and the directives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, all Catholics who have completed their fourteenth year and are not yet sixty years old are required to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. This rule can be dispensed in cases of certain medical conditions or very unusual situations. Nonetheless, the season of Lent calls us to practice penance in various forms, to pray and to be particularly mindful of the needs of the poor.

Respecting the long standing tradition of celebrating the commemoration of Saint Patrick, and after both prayerful consideration and proper consultation, I, Frank J. Caggiano, the Fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, grant a dispensation from the requirement to abstain from meat on Friday, March 17, 2017 for the faithful of the Diocese of Bridgeport, mindful of the following considerations:

1. Everyone is encouraged to observe general moderation in food and drink during the entire season of Lent;
2. Those who choose to eat meat on Saint Patrick's Day are encouraged to abstain from meat on another day of Lent that is not a Friday, or observe another equally penitential practice.

Given at Bridgeport on the seventh day of March, in the Year of Our Lord 2017.

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

Reverend Monsignor Thomas W. Powers
Vicar General