

## **Coronavirus and the Church: 'Submission' or 'lack of faith'? (part 1)**

**This article may help clarify the issues involved in suspending the Church's liturgy in obedience to civil laws.**

**A French bishop has called on Catholics not to pit civil law against divine law. He says that being careless in dealing with COVID-19 is tantamount to 'tempting God'**

The Bishop of Vannes, a city south west of Paris on the Bay of Biscay (Atlantic Ocean) has responded to parishioners who expressed their disquiet about his decision to suspend all public Masses in the diocese.

"Obedience to civil laws is not a concession made out of weakness; it is a Christian's duty," Bishop Centène said. The region is one of the three hardest hit by Corona virus.

### **'Viruses are not destroyed when we enter a church'**

"It is necessary to distinguish between conscientious objection to laws that could compromise God's plan" and obedience to "laws aimed at safeguarding public health," he said.

By obeying the law, Catholics have not returned to the days of martyrdom in the Coliseum. "Their witness was at the cost of their own lives and not at the risk of the health and life of their neighbor," he pointed out.

He urged believers to follow the advice of St. Ignatius of Loyola: "Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God."

To be continued tomorrow