



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 5, 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you concerning the continuing spread of the COVID-19 virus in South Carolina. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the delta variant is contracted more easily and rapidly than other variants. The number of cases is increasing and leading to more hospitalizations and potentially more deaths. It is placing a strain on healthcare resources.

I have written to your pastors to **recommend** that masks be worn during Masses, and that we take Communion in the hand, so that we are able to continue worshipping together. Also, I strongly **recommend** that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued guidance on COVID-19 vaccines determining that it is morally licit, that is, lawful and not forbidden, for Catholics to be vaccinated against the virus.

Please continue to respect local ordinances and directives from the CDC and South Carolina government officials, and take precautions as much as possible so that we may each do our part to end this terrible disease.

I know that these are difficult times, and so I continue to pray for you and your families.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone, DD
Bishop of Charleston