



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Memorandum

Cathedral Square Plaza

OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Priests

From: Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak

DPO

Date: 11 March 2020

Re: Coronavirus update

We have fielded a number of calls questioning the wisdom of allowing the reception of the Body of Christ on the tongue during the current health crisis. We have consulted with local canonists, liturgists and the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship as well as the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments asking if a pastor, diocesan administrator or bishop can prohibit the reception of communion on the tongue. All of our sources come up with the same answer: neither a pastor, diocesan administrator nor a bishop is permitted to prohibit reception of communion on the tongue. Therefore, we recommend that you consider making the following announcement in these or similar words:

- While the option of receiving the Body of Christ on the tongue or in the hand remains that of the individual, it is requested that, out of charitable concern, communicants who are accustomed to receiving the Body of Christ on the tongue please receive the Body of Christ in the hand until the COVID-19 public health crisis has passed.