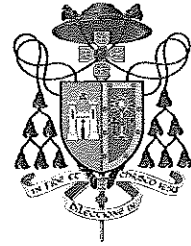


DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Administrators, Business Manager, Principals and Liturgy Coordinators

From: Bishop Kevin Vann

Date: May 15, 2009

Subject: Withdrawal of Liturgical Adaptations

After careful consultation, I have concluded that we may immediately withdraw the liturgical adaptations in response to the Swine Flu concerns. All parishes in the diocese are asked to return to the practice of serving Communion under both species and to re-institute the Sign of Peace.

While the holding of hands during the Our Father has evolved into a practice in many of our parishes, this is not required or encouraged by the Roman Rite. You may all remember this point from the presentation by Msgr. James Moroney.

I have come to this decision because national and local public health officials over the last few days have concluded that the spread of the N1H1 Influenza (Swine Flu) is subsiding and that the influenza is not as viral as public health officials initially feared.

Public health officials continue to advise that everyone should observe good hygiene as long as this Influenza Type A is present and they recommend that persons who are ill stay home from work, school and other activities until they are well. As in the past, pastors are permitted to make liturgical adaptations in their local setting if local health conditions warrant. Each pastor needs to be prudent and use common sense regarding this matter.

Likewise, the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic schools will continue to operate under normal conditions, but they will continue to take actions to mitigate the spread of Influenza Type A and will respond to confirmed Influenza Type A cases in accordance with guidelines laid down by public health officials.

I wish to offer my gratitude and thanks to pastors, parishioners and ministers for cooperating and understanding the need for the liturgical adaptations that we followed the last few weeks. I realize that the adaptations were an inconvenience.

I ask that we continue to pray for all involved.

THE CATHOLIC CENTER