



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
**OF CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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August 5, 2021

My Dear Brothers 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 strongly recommend that masks be worn during Masses, and in places where social distancing cannot be maintained, so that we are able to continue worshipping together. Please talk to your parishioners and request that they wear masks and take Communion in the hand. We must, in strong terms, recommend that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated.

These are difficult times. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued guidance on COVID-19 vaccines, determining that it is morally licit for Catholics to be vaccinated against the virus.

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

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, DD  
*Bishop of Charleston*