



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

**STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO ON RELIGIOUS
EXEMPTION LETTERS FOR VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19**

Unless prevented medically from doing so, the Archdiocese of San Antonio encourages everyone to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has stated: *"Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good"* (USCCB, *Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines*.)

The Archdiocese upholds the right of all individuals to inform and follow their conscience regarding vaccination, while recognizing such personal decisions should not be dependent upon documentation by a member of the clergy. Therefore, the clergy of the Archdiocese of San Antonio will not be providing nor signing religious exemption letters for COVID-19 vaccination.

The links below, from the Vatican and the USCCB, offer further guidance, as to the reason the Archdiocese does not consider the COVID-19 vaccine to be morally objectionable and the reason all faithful, if medically able to do so, are encouraged to be vaccinated:

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2021/us-bishop-chairmen-doctrine-and-pro-life-address-use-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine>

Let us continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19, for those who have died from this virus, for our health care personnel and for an end to this pandemic.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS
Archbishop of San Antonio

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