



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF TUCSON

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

To: Pastors
From: Bishop Weisenburger
Date: February 1, 2018
Re: Temporary recommended policy on:
Reception of the Blood of Christ at Masses

Dear Father,

In light of Jesus' admonition at the Last Supper to "***take and eat, take and drink,***" I align myself fully with the formal teaching of our Church that it is a fuller sign of the Sacramental experience when the laity receive from the common cup. Moreover, I am very disappointed to hear of instances where individual pastors are choosing not to permit the people this fuller experience of the Sacrament for theological reasons not supported by the Church.

However, reception from the common cup is a Sacramental practice that may be controlled, especially as it pertains to public health. At this time, and following the recommendation of certain public professionals, I would recommend that Pastors suspend the use of the common cup at Mass for approximately 30 (thirty) days, in light of the prevalence of a very virulent flu strain affecting many of our communities. I likewise would encourage pastors to revisit this suspension thirty days from now to determine, locally, if an additional period of thirty days is prudent. I also ask that Pastors who follow this recommendation please inform the people of the important reason (public health) for this temporary pastoral change, and that there will be no long-term change in the Church's formal pastoral practice.

I am very grateful for your attention to this matter as well as the good service you provide Christ in our people on a daily basis. May God bless you abundantly.

In Christ Jesus,

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