



**Reception of  
Holy Communion On the Tongue  
During Coronavirus**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Priests, Deacons, Liturgical and Music Directors, Parish Administrators

FROM: Most Reverend Richard E. Pates + R E P

DATE: September 21, 2020

RE: Communion on the Tongue

Heartfelt thanks to the Priests and all associated with them for the outstanding service that has been rendered in the re-opening of our Churches beginning on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The same pattern has been followed with comparable results in our schools and religious education programs.

At the center of the effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is the universal use of masks and social distancing of six-feet. Closely associated with these two protocols are hand washing and the sanitizing of our facilities.

One concern that has been voiced strongly but in fact is confined to a relatively few in our community is receiving Communion on the tongue. Several dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Chicago, now allow such reception under strict guidelines. Consultation was conducted among the eight priest Deans of the Diocese of Joliet regarding making this a possibility in the diocese. Very legitimate concerns about the practice remain, thus a strict protocol is required in this regard.

As permission is granted in the Diocese of Joliet for reception of Holy Communion on the tongue, the following provide context:

- Safety remains a top priority for all
- The guidelines are to be used as the exception, not the rule
- To be remembered is that the Eucharist is a time for unity
- and not a moment of division/contention

*Permission is given for distribution of Communion on the tongue, provided the attached procedures are strictly adhered to. Bishop Hicks has been apprised of this permission being granted and fully concurs with the step.*

Again, heartfelt thanks to all in our diocesan community for the cooperation with the protocols/guidelines for our liturgical services and community life. At this time, we continue to validate the proposition that we can activate the life of the Church SAFELY in the midst of a pandemic.

Assuring you of my prayers and very best wishes, I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Richard E. Pates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates  
Apostolic Administrator  
Diocese of Joliet

cc: Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Mr. Chris Nye  
Sister Sharon Stola, OSB  
Members of the Diocesan Curia