



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES  
*Office of the Bishop*

March 28, 2022

Dear Father,

On March 12, 2020, I issued directives regarding certain protocol that were to be followed in parishes in order to help prevent the spreading of COVID-19. Now, just over two years later, I am happy to formally rescind any and all directives that were implemented in the Diocese of Las Cruces with regard to COVID-19.

Vaccines have been available now for some time and many people have already contracted the virus, granting them some level of protection. Additionally, we have gained a much better understanding of how the virus is transmitted and of those who are at a greater risk.

Therefore, effective Holy Thursday, April 17, 2022, I rescind any and all directives related to COVID-19. This includes the suspension of the use of the minor chalices for distribution of the Precious Blood. This will allow us to return to celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice with the fullness of signs Christ left us.

As always, I am mindful that each pastor is confronted with a different set of circumstances in ministering to his people. Pastors, therefore, are free to use their discretion and prudential judgement in assessing how and when to distribute under both species.

I pray that the Lord grants you a fruitful Lenten journey as we await the celebration of the Paschal Triduum.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino  
Bishop of Las Cruces