



Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

December 16, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Archdiocese of San Antonio,

On December 4, the Archdiocese issued a statement regarding the moral permissibility of using the vaccines for COVID-19 developed by Pfizer and Moderna, which are the only ones currently approved, distributed, and administered in the United States for people 16 years (Pfizer) and 18 years (Moderna) of age and older.

Knowing that under the current circumstances we may in good conscience use the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, each of us will soon have to decide whether or not to take such vaccines when they become available in our area. While making this discernment, we must keep in mind that not everyone will be able to take them right away. Some will not be able to take them at all. For example:

- Upon the emergency approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued specific indications for its use among special populations, such as people with immunocompromising conditions, women who are pregnant or plan to be pregnant, women who are breastfeeding, and people with a moderate/severe acute illness. Some within these special groups might need to wait to be vaccinated, even if the vaccine is already available for them to use.
- Other people, such as those with a history of severe allergic reactions (e.g., anaphylaxis) may simply not be able to get vaccinated due to their particular condition.

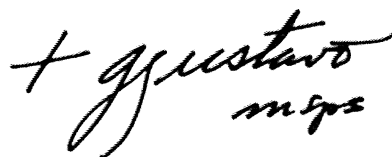
Additionally, the process of making and distributing enough vaccines for everyone who can take them will require months, which means that many people in our country and around the world will remain at risk of becoming infected for an extended period of time.

Under such circumstances, it is important to keep in mind that, along with our natural obligation to care for our personal health, we have a moral responsibility to care for those around us. Given the extremely serious risk to public health currently posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this means that we are called upon to protect others from infection and care for the common good.

Vaccines will help stop the spread of a virus only if they are used — helping to avoid additional deaths due to the pandemic — and alleviating the suffering of many, particularly those most vulnerable to the virus due to age, preexisting medical conditions, or the challenging personal and economic circumstances in which they live. We take vaccines not only to protect ourselves but to protect *them*, which is why this is not only a matter of our personal preferences or rights, but a matter of fulfilling our duty to care for all.

Attached please find the latest comments on the permissibility of the use of vaccines against COVID-19. This should continue to guide your preaching and your teaching. Thank you so much for your attention and your service.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for all of us,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gustavo" in a large, flowing script, with "mgs" written in a smaller, simpler script below it.

Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS
Archbishop of San Antonio

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Boulette" in a cursive script.

Most Rev. Michael J. Boulette, D.Min., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio