

Catholic Bishops of PA Issue Flu Season Directives

Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania encourage the clergy and faithful to observe the necessary standard precautions to protect the health of others during this flu season, and especially with the risks related to H1N1 influenza (swine flu). The Bishops additionally direct the following for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy and for flu prevention:

- *The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is generally suspended. The faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.*
- *The exchange of the sign of peace is to be offered without any physical contact. If the priest celebrant chooses to extend the invitation for the sign of peace, the faithful, instead of a handshake, may bow to the persons nearby.*

These directives issued by Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania are effective Sunday, October, 18, 2009 until determined otherwise by the local Bishop.