



## **Bishop's Message to the Faithful**

February 8, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you!

As you may know, new vaccines have recently been made available for protection against Covid-19. There is much information, some of it conflicting, about the efficacy, safety, and morality of using these vaccines. To help you in making decisions about the vaccine, I wish to offer a few observations as your bishop.

First, since the vaccines have undergone testing by qualified medical authorities, they should be regarded as safe and effective. Second, since they serve to protect both the recipients from the disease and others around them by preventing recipients from spreading the disease, taking the vaccine can be an expression of love for ourselves and our neighbors.

Finally, it is morally permissible to take the vaccines, even though there is remote association with abortion. The vaccines currently available all have some association with abortions which occurred decades ago, making the connection very remote. But people who take the vaccines now had nothing to do with the abortions performed long ago from which cell lines were created that have been used in making the vaccines. Therefore, taking the vaccine does not violate the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. Please note that our Church respects the conscientious decisions of those who refrain from taking these vaccines due to the remote abortion association. I encourage everyone to communicate their objection to the use of cell lines originating from aborted fetuses to the manufacturers of these vaccines. For your convenience a letter template for [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#) can be accessed here.

I plan to get vaccinated myself, and I encourage you to do so. It's important that we protect ourselves and those around us from the danger of the Covid-19 disease.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr.