



Office of the Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

**STATEMENT OF BISHOP ROBERT M. COERVER
REGARDING THE MORAL PERMISSIBILITY
OF THE USE OF THE RECENTLY RELEASED VACCINES FOR COVID-19**

December 9, 2020

My Dear People of the Diocese of Lubbock:

We must continue to pray for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to ravage our world. We need to lift up in prayer and express our gratitude for the medical and scientific professionals and workers who, for me, are the heroes of the year 2020.

We also pray for recovery to full health of those suffering from the virus and its effects—and we join in solidarity with those who have lost loved ones to this dreaded disease.

As we journey through this pandemic, a glimmer of Advent hope seems to be on the horizon. The development and distribution of a vaccine against Coronavirus appears to be at hand. Texas and the Lubbock area are reportedly to be among early recipients of the vaccine.

Of course, there will be priority given to certain populations to receive the vaccine first. When it becomes available to any population among us, I encourage those to whom it is available to give serious consideration to being inoculated.

The concern we have been showing for the Common Good—by, among other actions, wearing masks and keeping a safe physical distance – extends, now, to our own willingness to be vaccinated. I look forward to the opportunity to receive the vaccine myself.

In Catholic circles some concerns have been raised about the moral and ethical development of the vaccines. Experts among moral theologians and medical ethicists have communicated to the Bishops of the United States that receiving the Coronavirus vaccines that have been developed would not be immoral or consist of a contribution to moral evil.

The vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna appear to have been developed in a manner in greater conformity to our Catholic moral teaching than that of AstraZeneca. The public, however, will probably not be able to choose which company's vaccine they will actually receive.

I wish to assure Catholics— and men and women of good will— that it is morally permissible to receive the vaccines for COVID-19 that are to become available in the coming days and weeks.

May we all continue to observe the recommended health practices. May we all grow in our appreciation and understanding of the Common Good. May we all be preserved from being impacted personally from the ravages of this pandemic.

+ *Robert M. Coerver*

Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock

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