

Memo to: Clergy, Religious and the Faithful in the Diocese of Shreveport

From: Bishop Francis I. Malone

Date: March 2, 2020

Re: Active Response to the Coronavirus

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The increasing growth and spread of the coronavirus has become a worldwide threat. We hear daily reports of its spread with few indications of a cure. This, in itself, calls for a common sense response in our daily lives. Consistent with many other bishops throughout the country, I offer the following instructions which I hope will be helpful to you.

Those who feel ill should not attend Mass;

I strongly encourage the temporary discontinuation of the Precious Blood at Mass;

Members of the faithful should be encouraged (not required) to receive Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue;

Eucharistic Ministers should be reminded to wash (sanitize) their hands prior to and after the distribution of the Eucharist;

Where there is a custom of holding hands during the Lord's Prayer, this should be discouraged;

As an alternate to shaking hands at the sign of peace, a bow might be suggested.

Finally, an inclusion of prayers for a cure should be included in the universal prayers we offer at Mass.