

From: Office of the Bishop<bishop@grdiocese.org>

Date: On Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 8:22 PM

Subject: Fwd: Re: Abortion and the shot

To: xxxxxxxx

Cc:

Dear xxxxxxx,

The Covid vaccines are no longer experimental. They have been proven safe and effective through regular drug trials conducted by the FDA.

Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is morally licit, as the highest doctrinal authority in the Church, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has recently stated. For this reason, priests will not be issuing letters of exemption for Catholics who have conscientious objections to the vaccine.

Issuing a letter of exemption would signal that a Catholic's decision to refuse the Covid vaccine is rooted in and supported by authentic Catholic faith. Receiving the vaccine, however, is perfectly consistent with Catholic faith, and indeed laudatory, in light of the common good in this time of pandemic. An exemption letter would endorse, not what the Church teaches on the question, but rather what individuals discern is their chosen pathway.

Any Catholic seeking an exemption places the burden on their own conscience rather than on Church approval. Thus priests are not to vouch for the conscience of another person seeking such an exemption.

A request for a conscience exemption must come from individuals themselves by way of their own letter, or completion of an organization's form applying for an exemption.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,
Bishop David Walkowiak