

Liturgical practices restored with lifting of H1N1 protocols in the diocese of Saskatoon



Jan. 14, 2010 - Diocesan administrator Rev. Ronald Beechinor has announced that effective immediately, H1N1 protocols are lifted in parishes across the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

At the recommendation of the Administrative Council, an H1N1 sub-committee was struck to track the virus and to make recommendations with regards to its liturgical implications. The members of the Committee are: Leah Perrault (Chair), Abbot Peter Novecosky (Liturgy Commission), Monica Beavis (Consultant in Human Resources for Nightingale Nursing and formerly CEO of Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation), and Ethna Martin (St. Philip Neri Parish Nurse).

After consultation with the Saskatoon Health Region, the committee recommends that restrictions implemented in the diocese in October 2009 can now be lifted.

Effective immediately:

1. Communion from the common cup is reinstated.
2. Exchange of the Sign of Peace is reinstated.
3. Holy Water should once again be placed in the fonts at the entrances of our churches.
4. Welcomers can once again offer a handshake as an expression of greeting.
5. No longer discourage the reception of communion on the tongue.
6. Baptism by immersion can once again be done.

As always, Public Health reminds us that various flu and cold viruses continue to spread throughout the winter and all through the year, noted Beechinor in a memo to diocesan priests, pastors, Parish Life Directors, and lay leaders. "Please continue encouraging hand washing, sanitization and other good hygiene practices in order to minimize the spread of viruses."