



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

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Prot. n. [REDACTED]

November 13, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

This Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has received and attentively studied your petition making recourse against the decision of Bishop Richard F. Stika to suspend reception of Holy Communion on the tongue at public Masses throughout the Diocese of Knoxville for the duration of the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

As has already been enunciated in the circular letter of Card. Robert Sarah of August 15, 2020 (Prot. n. [REDACTED]), and approved for publication by His Holiness Pope Francis, "in times of difficulty (e.g., wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed", even clearly, as in this case, to suspend for whatever time might be required, reception of Holy Communion on the tongue at the public celebration of the Holy Mass. For your convenience, please find in attachment the full text of this letter.

This Dicastery does hereby therefore act to confirm the decision of Bishop Stika and thereby rejects your petition seeking its modification.

With every good wish and kind regard, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Arthur Roche
Archbishop Secretary

Enclosure

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Tennessee [REDACTED]

USA