



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Mailing Address
POST OFFICE BOX F
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
18105-1538

4029 WEST TILGHMAN STREET
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18104
(610) 437-0755
Fax (610) 433-7822

23 January 2019

The Memorial of Saint Marianne Cope

Reverend Thomas Acker, S.J.
Saint Joseph Catholic Church
2643 Waterloo Road
Mogadore, Ohio 44260

Dear Father Acker,

I write to acknowledge your 16 January 2019 correspondence regarding my directive to suspend Holy Communion from the Chalice and the Exchange of the Sign of Peace during the flu season. The Diocese of Allentown, as in past years, monitors the Pennsylvania Department of Health's influenza outbreak status and acts accordingly for the safety of our parishioners.

I am grateful for your recent article that you transmitted to me from the *National Catholic Reporter*. I recall reading your article in December, and I offer you my gratitude and appreciation for your research, your well-reasoned liturgical approach, and your commitment to the health and well-being of the faithful.

While the reception of the Precious Blood and the practice of intinction is not prevalent in most of our parishes in the Diocese of Allentown, please know that I will review this opportunity to catechize pastors in this option with my diocesan staff.

With appreciation for your thoughtful letter, and with the assurance of my prayers for your priestly ministry, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown