Dear

My name is NAME. I am a concerned MOTHER of NUMBER of children in the DIOCESE NAME.

I am writing to let you know that my NUMBER OF children will leave SCHOOL NAME if FORCED vaccination mandates for our CHILDREN go into effect and additionally, we will discontinue all donations and participation in the Catholic Church should this unlawful FORCE occur. I am well-aware of my rights as a United States Citizen as well as my God-given rights of free-will and informed conscience. Are you prepared for thousands of families to exit your schools and churches if these mandates go into effect??

As you know, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that a person may be required to refuse medical intervention, including vaccination, if his or her informed conscience comes to this sure judgement. The following authoritative Church teachings demonstrate the principled religious basis on which a Catholic may determine that he or she ought to refuse certain vaccines:

 **• Vaccination is not morally obligatory in principle and so must be voluntary.**

 **• There is a general moral duty to refuse the use of medical products, including certain vaccines that are produced using human cell lines derived from direct abortions.**

 **• A person is morally required to obey his or her sure conscience, even if it errs.**

Additionally, I oppose the State’s COVID-19 mandates for the following reasons:

**The Diocese Does Not Have Legal Authority to Mandate COVID-19 Shots**

California Health & Safety Code, Section 120335(a)(1)- (10) lists ten (10) immunizations required for students to attend school in person in public or private schools. This list does not include any COVID-19 vaccines. Under section 120335(a)(11), the *California Department of Public Health* (“CDPH”) can add a new vaccine to the childhood immunization schedule, and the CDHP has not at this time. Neither this Section- nor any other law- grants a school or district authority to unilaterally add new vaccines to this list. Even if CDHP decided to add COVID- 19 vaccines to the mandatory K-12 shot schedule, it would be required to allow medical and personal belief exemptions. See HSC:120338. Accordingly, any unilateral COVID-19 mandate that the District intends to impose on its students without allowance for medical and personal belief exemptions is not only prohibited by law, but also illegal on its face.

**The Diocese Cannot Mandate an EUA Product**

While neither CDHP nor our state legislature has added the COVID-19 shots to the schedule or mandated any COVID- 19 vaccine for in-person attendance, neither can do so while the vaccines are still under emergency use authorization. See 21 U.S.C. 360-bbb-3. This section- The Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”) statute - explicitly states that anyone whom an EUA product is administered must be informed of the option to refuse the product, the consequences of doing so, and of alternatives to the product, including their risks and benefits, as well. All of the COVID- 19 vaccines currently available for children 12 to 18 years old are only authorized, and no entity can mandate them per the EUA. If neither CDHP nor the legislature can mandate these vaccines due to federal EUA law and preemption issues, neither can the District. Any policy mandating these shots is not a public health policy, but rather an order to take medicine as a condition for in-person schooling.

**The Diocese Is Exposed to Unfettered Civil Liability**

The Federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (“PREP”) Act shields COVID-19 vaccine developers, manufacturers, distributors, and administrators- “covered liabilities”- from liability for injuries caused by their countermeasures. However, neither the Diocese nor any school attempting to implement its mandates is a “covered entity” and, thus, is vulnerable to suit and faces complete exposure for all liability.

**The shots do not prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2**

It is unrefuted that the COVID-19 shots- especially the Pfizer - BioNTech shot, *which is the only shot authorized for children 12-18 years old-* cause myocarditis, pericarditis, and other life-threatening conditions that would otherwise not affect children specifically targeted by the mandate. (https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.30.21262866v1, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/10/boys-more-at-risk-from-pfizer-jab-side-effect-than-covid-suggests-study ) There is zero justification for exposing otherwise healthy children who have a *statistical zero* chance of dying from the virus to *any* risk (99.9% survival rate), especially where the individuals they would presumably be protecting are able to protect themselves.

The in U.S. anyone who wants to get a vaccine can easily get one & for free. Requiring 12-18 and soon 5-12 year olds, who are uniquely susceptible to some of the greatest, life-altering risks of all with *little-to-no-benefit,* to get a COVID-19 shot is not the answer. Rather, it is an unethical and unscientific way to use children as a shield to protect segments of the adult population- who already have the option to be vaccinated.

As stated on the Diocese website in a letter written by Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools on December 15, 2020: Research supports the benefits of in-person instruction for the social and emotional wellbeing of students, especially in times of crisis. Additionally, in-person instruction is the best way we can ensure equity and access to all of our students on a daily basis.

Our children have been living a true nightmare for the last 3 years with lockdowns, fear, loneliness, depression, anxiety and the introduction of wearing masks for 7+ hours which is slowly taking their emotions and personalities away from them. Now forced vaccinations (for a virus that does not affect them) will take away their personal freedom, give privileges to only “vaccinated” individuals and will quickly segregate and divide our country! This is the opposite of what the Catholic faith teaches. Please help us keep faith in God and our future by standing up to the evil that is surrounding us!

I pray daily for our leaders that God guides them to truth and gives them the bravery and strength to make the right choices in order to uphold the ethics and morals of our church and to save our country. God is perfect and has chosen YOU to stand up for what is true and right! YOUR choices have great power and responsibility to uphold these values for the greater good.

Thank you,

Notes

 *• Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), “Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-Covid-19 Vaccines, “ December 17, 2020, n. 5: “At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary”.*

 *• See Pontifical Academy for Life, “Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses,” June 9, 2005; Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction Dignitas personae, 2008, nn. 34-35; Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “Note on the Morality of Using Some Anti-Covid-19 vaccines,” nn.1-3. When there is a sufficiently serious reason to use the product and there is no reasonable alternative available, the Catholic Church teaches that it may be permissible to use the product. In any case, whether the product is used or not, the Catholic Church teaches that all must make their disagreement KNOWN and REQUEST the development of equal or better products using biological material that does NOT come from abortions.*

 *• A human being must always obey the certain judgement of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself. Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Man is sometimes confronted by situations that make moral judgments less assured and decision difficult. But he must always seriously seek what is right and good and discern the will of God expressed in divine law. It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience. This requirement of interiority is all the more necessary as life often distracts us from any reflection, self-examination or introspection: Return to your conscience, question it.... Turn inward, brethren, and in everything you do, see God as your witness. Catechism of the Catholic Church- Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1993.*