

August 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

_____ is a baptized Catholic seeking a religious exemption from an immunization requirement. This letter indicates that this decision in these circumstances is consistent with Catholic teaching.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that a person may be required to refuse a medical intervention, including a vaccination, if his or her informed conscience comes to this sure judgment. While the Catholic Church does not prohibit the use of vaccines in principle, her teachings do provide a principled religious basis on which a Catholic may determine that he or she ought to refuse certain vaccines.

The Church holds that vaccination is not morally obligatory in principle and so must always be voluntary.

Moreover, there is a general moral duty to refuse the use of medical products, including certain vaccines, that are produced using human cells lines derived from direct abortions. It is permissible to use such vaccines only under certain case-specific conditions, based on a judgment of conscience.

An individual's judgment in these matters is to be respected because he/she is morally required to obey the judgment of a sure conscience, even if it is objectively in error.

As the *Catechism* makes clear, a person "must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters" (n. 1782).

Given the current situation with the Covid 19 vaccines and having heard the judgments _____ has made, I can attest that he is acting in accordance with Catholic teaching in this matter.

Sincerely in Christ,

[Name & Title]