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### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Mass Activities

#### Purpose of this paper

There are three types of functions Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion do within St. Edward's Parish;

- Distribution of the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ at Mass,
- Distribution of the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ to those of the faith community who are sick or cannot attend Mass, and
- Prepare the Credence table before Mass and closing up the church after Mass (Office of a Sacristan – in some parishes this is not a role for an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion).

This paper will only look at those who are to distribute the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. It is laid out in 5 sections; an overview of the position, general attitude, preparation before Mass, activities during distribution, and activities after Mass and the dismissal. (Also see Appendix D for the 2013 Diocesan Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.)

#### 1. Overview

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are mandated positions. That is the Bishop mandates each person to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and to participate in the Mass through the distribution of the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ.

The Priest is the only Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist and as such is the only one who can consecrate the hosts and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. They do this as one who is ordained as a Shepherd of Souls and acting in the Person of Christ the Head of the Church.

We do not pass out the bread and wine but we **do** distribute the real presence of the Christ in the consecrated Body and Blood held within the vessels we are holding. We are called to be Love Servants at the Eucharistic Feast, in service to God and our Church to share the Body and Blood of Christ through our Priest to our faith community. The Eucharist has been and continues to be the ongoing faith connection and perpetual memorial we profess and celebrate between the Paschal Christ and the Risen Christ.

If we think of the Suffering Christ at the back of the worship area and the Risen Christ at the front of the worship area we will notice the altar between; the place where the Sacrificial Meal is prepared during the Eucharist. This draws our attention to the suffering Christ endured for our Salvation and the expectation of his second coming which is connected through each Eucharist celebration.

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## Important parts of the worship area that we should be familiar with are

- The Sanctuary (St. Edwards) – the raised part of the worship area where the Altar, the Ambo, the Lectern, the Presider Chair, the Credence Table and the Tabernacle are
- the Altar – centre point of the Sanctuary, symbol of Christ
- the Tabernacle – where the reserved Body of Christ are placed after Mass
- the Tabernacle light – this is on whenever there are reserved hosts in the Tabernacle i.e., Christ is present in the transubstantiated hosts (if there are no hosts in reserve the Tabernacle door is open and the light is off)
- the Credence table
- the Presider Chair – where the Priest or the Bishop sits to celebrate Mass
- the Ambo – where the celebration of the Word of God and the Homily are presented
- the Lectern – where the Psalm and Gospel Acclamation are sung and announcements are made

## The normal Altar setting

- has an embedded altar stone with remnants of Saints (over which the corporal is placed during the Liturgy of the Eucharist part of Mass)
- has an altar cloth over the top of the altar
- may have an antependium with the colour of the liturgical season draped over the front
- has candles on each side of the ambo and two candles on the top front of the altar

## The Credence Table

- 4 Chalices
- 2 Ciboria (there are two other vessels that will also be used in the distribution of the Eucharist – a covered ciborium in the Tabernacle and the plate that is processed in with the gifts with unconsecrated new hosts)
- 5 Purificators
- 1 Corporal
- A cruet (small glass vessel) with water in that will be added to the wine and for cleaning vessels at the Credence Table after Holy Communion
- At times chalice covers (e.g. in the summer)
- The bowl, a small jug and water for washing of the priest's hands
- A small towel

## 2. General Attitude of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

### Before Mass

Pray and put yourself in a place where you are calm and receptive to the Holy Spirit working in you through your ministry. Try to avoid things that will upset you or distract you from being present to your function as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. If there are things that just are too hard to let go of be willing to ask another Minister to fill in for you. Belief in all our Sacraments, regular

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confession, daily prayer and reflection on the weekly readings are also suggested as ongoing preparation.

### During Distribution

Be fully present and aware of your function. We will be touching the vessels that hold the transubstantiated bread and wine, i.e.; the consecrated Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. This is a position where we must show reverence, love, dignity and respect. We are inviting, along with the Priest our fellow attendees to come forth and partake of the Eucharistic Feast.

Hold the vessels in a position of honour and respect, for example at heart level not waist level. Look people in the eye when you pronounce “the Body of Christ” or the “Blood of Christ”. Be inviting and welcoming with your eyes. We suggest you hold the Body of Christ up so that it is between your face and the recipient’s face.

### 3. Before Mass

If you are unable to serve at the Mass please make sure you find a replacement. If you are unable to find a replacement either phone the office and let them know by Friday morning or call one of the Sacristans who can then look for someone at the 5:00 p.m. (Anna Kinsella 250.748.3426) or 10:00 a.m. (Phil Jennings 250.715.1589) Mass.

- Prepare yourself with pray or reflections before you leave home
- Check off your name on the list at the back of the church
- Have a quick look at the Credence table from where you are and see if it is set (this should be done by the Sacristan but it is a good habit to do especially if you sit near the Credence Table)
- Sit quietly or pray before Mass to calm yourself
- Participate fully in both the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist

### 4. After the Lord’s Prayer

- Shake hands with only one or two people
- Come quickly to the front (delaying coming forward breaks the rhythm of the Mass)
- Use the hand sanitizer on the side stands
- Stand respectfully in a line behind the altar (7 ministers)
- Lightly bow before receiving the Body of Christ from Father and again before receiving the Blood of Christ
- Father will give 3 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion a ciborium and 4 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion the chalices (if you receive a chalice unfold your purificator fully and offer the chalice to another Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and/or the Servers and wipe as per noted below in the distribution section)
- When Father leaves to go to his station take your stations either at the front or on the sides (the outside people should take the sides and the people in the middle of the line the front – unless Father indicates otherwise e.g., he will be doing one of the sides)

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### Distribution

- Clearly announce either “Body of Christ” or “Blood of Christ”
  - if distributing with a chalice wipe the inside and outside of the chalice rim and turn the cup between people
    - although we do not encourage intincturing if people do use intinction (dip the Body into the Blood of Christ) follow the host to their mouth with the purificator at chest level to protect for any drops and remind them after Mass that intincture, by teaching of the Church, is only to be done by a priest (see Appendix C)
  - if distributing with a ciborium or the plate place the host on the hand of the person
    - if people try to pinch the host from you be make sure they have it before releasing the host
    - some people may come forward and open their mouths – place the host on their tongue without touching the tongue itself (you may want to change hands after this but it is only as good as the next open mouth)
    - some people or children may come forward and have their arms crossed over their chest or ask for a blessing – with the back or side of your hand make a small cross on the forehead and say a short prayer (see Appendix E)
    - If there are still people and you have run out of hosts check to see if there are some on the altar (i.e., if someone has finished before you) or get more from another person who has plenty to share)
    - Check to see if there is an elder or handicapped person who did not come forward and go to them and offer the Body of Christ where they are sitting and if there is the Blood of Christ left in a chalice other Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion should go with you and also offer this to them
    - If you run out of wine return to the credence table and purify the chalice
    - If you are on the choir side make sure before you return the ciborium or chalice to the Credence Table that the choir has received Holy Communion

### Purifying the Vessels<sup>1</sup>

- **Chalice:** when the chalice is empty take it back to the Credence Table and purify it with a small amount of water, rinse it carefully around the chalice, drink all the water/wine remnant and then wipe out the chalice completely, fold the purificator and drape it over the chalice
  - if there is wine left in your chalice and there is no one left in your line then go to another line and offer it there, do not empty your chalice until all people have received Holy Communion
  - if all people have received then either consume the remaining wine where you are or go back to the Credence Table and consume it there – purify as per normal process (see above)

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<sup>1</sup> This is a major change in this version of the handbook

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- if there is too much wine for you to consume yourself share it with other Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or Father – purify as per normal process (see above)
- Once you have purified your chalice please return to your seat
- **Ciborium:** when you have finished distributing with the ciborium take it back to the altar
  - if you are first to finish stand at the back of the altar with your ciborium and wait for the other people to finish, this ciborium will become the covered ciborium that goes into the Tabernacle (see below)
  - if you finish after Father or after the first Extraordinary Minister take your ciborium back to the altar and return to your seat
- the first Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the altar will take all the remaining hosts from the plate and the two ciboria on the altar and place them all in the one ciborium place a lid on it and give this to Father to be placed in the Tabernacle,
- the two ciboria and the plate are taken to the Credence Table by the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
  - the two ciboria left empty will be cleaned by gently wiping any remnant of the Body of Christ into the plate using the spare purificator on the Credence Table,
  - wipe all the remnant from the plate into a chalice and run your hand down the purificator over the same chalice once or twice to get any remnant off the cloth
  - add water to the chalice from the cruet, rinse it around, consume the water and any remnants and then wipe the chalice out with the purificator
  - return to your seat after cleaning of the vessels
  - the corporal will be cleared by an altar server
- the priest will place the covered ciborium into the Tabernacle, genuflecting or bowing

### Issues

- Dropping a host – quickly pick it up and consume it yourself and then give a fresh one to the parishioner
- Dripping wine on the floor e.g., after an intinction<sup>2</sup> – cover the wine with the purificator you have and get the spare one from beside the Tabernacle to finish (the spots are then washed after Mass and the cleaning water appropriately removed)
- Spilling wine – same as dripping wine (the spill is then cleaned up and washed after Mass)
- People may receive only under one species – this is the host usually but if someone had a disorder where they cannot eat the Body of Christ they may choose to drink the Blood of Christ only
- Less than 7 Extraordinary Ministers are standing behind the altar – you are a mandated person to assist in this role therefore quickly go forward and offer your love service in this role until all 7 lay people are present
- More than one priest at a Mass concelebrating – in this situation we need only eight people in total so only the first Extraordinary Ministers that go forward to make up eight people are

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix C re: Intinction Form of Communion

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needed, go quickly as usual but when there are 8 people the remaining Extraordinary Ministers are not required

- Parishioners asking for Communion into a pyx while they are in line for Communion – if these are Parishioners you know place the Hosts into the pyx and after Mass or next week ask them to get the hosts from the Sacristy before Mass and place the pyx on the glass plate that will be put on the altar before Mass starts.
  - At the end of Mass before the final dismissal Father will call the Ministers who do Holy Communion outreach forward and give them a blessing for their Ministry.
  - If Extraordinary Ministers are not able to place their pyx on the altar before Mass begins they should wait until after Communion and then get the Hosts they require from the Tabernacle.

### 5. After distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ

If there is wine that has not been consecrated left in the decanter either leave it in the decanter or return it to the bottle and then wash the decanter.

If you are going to be taking the ciborium out of the Tabernacle after Mass, for example to place a host in a pyx, or placing it back in after distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ, do this lovingly and with a sense of awe - the Tabernacle is a sacred space.

- Open the door to take it out, pause for a second or two, then bow or genuflect, and then gently remove the ciborium.
- Handle the host respectfully and then take the ciborium back to the Tabernacle and gently enshrine it, bow or genuflect and then close the door.
- Take the key to the Credence table if it is at the end of distribution and replace it in the tin in the Sacristy after Mass. The tin is in the cabinet where the chalices and ciboria go after washing them.

### 6. After dismissal – Clean-Up and Returning Vessels to the Sacristy

All people who were Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be willing to clean up after Mass is over and we have been dismissed. It is not the function of the Sacristan to do this although they may assist if they are distributing that day.

- Take all of the vessels and linens from the Credence Table – only carry what you can without banging them together usually two pieces is enough if all people help clean up
- Take the dish that held the pyxes as well
- Take them to the resource room for washing and drying
- Run warm water in the sink with a small amount of soap – wash as you would any dishes but where a ciborium may be in two pieces do not immerse it in water
- The water from the bowl and in the cruet should be dumped on plants outside
- Return the Tabernacle key to the tin in the Sacristy - right hand upper cupboard (facing)
- The metal-ware goes in the right hand upper cupboard

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- The glassware goes in the left hand upper cupboard
- Remaining wine goes back into the bottle - the left lower cabinet
- Dirty linens goes in the basket in the middle lower cabinet
- Corporal is changed when dirty and is placed with the rest of the linens when washing is needed, otherwise it is placed in the drawer with the other corporals

**Note:** If there is another Mass to be celebrated that day or the next day, e.g., Sunday morning after the Saturday service, ensure that all the vessels and linens required are replaced on the Credence Table as required. On Saturday after Mass the wine and hosts for Sunday to be brought up at the offering of the gifts will be placed on the table in the entry area by the Sacristan in preparation for Sunday's Mass.

### Appendix A

#### Recommended Criteria for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion <sup>3</sup>

Criteria people should be aware of if considering becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion;

1. In communion with the Holy See
2. Regular attendee at Mass and able to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist
3. Prayerful living (a daily prayer life)
4. Willingness to serve the Church and God
5. An adult (over age 19)
6. Belief in all 7 of the "Sacraments"
7. Regular confession, at the very least during Lent and Advent

As Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion it is recommended that there be a desire and activities to enrich our faith and grow in our understanding of the Church's teachings and our own adult faith formation on an ongoing basis.

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<sup>3</sup> Modified with the approval of Father Luyen Dau C.Ss.R., September 19, 2015

### Appendix B

#### Receiving the Body of Christ<sup>4</sup>

Regarding the reception of Communion, the usual posture for receiving is standing (people with special needs are accommodated according to their need). Recipients bow their head or another sign of devotion before receiving Communion.

Reception of the Eucharist may be either on the hand or on the tongue. When receiving on the hand, one hand is placed over the other so that the Host may be placed by the minister in the hand. Before receiving Communion the Faithful are to express their faith in the Real Presence of Our Lord by responding “*Amen*” when the words: “*The Body of Christ*” or “*The Blood of Christ*” are spoken by the Minister of Communion. The Eucharist is to be consumed immediately upon receiving it.

When Communion of the Blood of Christ is carried out by drinking from the chalice, each person, after receiving the Body of Christ, moves to the minister of the chalice and stands facing them. The minister says, *The Blood of Christ*, recipients reply, *Amen*, and the minister hands over the chalice, which the person raises to his or her mouth. Each recipient drinks a little from the chalice, hands it back to the minister, and then returns to their seat.

Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds however our Catholic faith teaches that Christ, whole and entire, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species, and hence that as regards the resulting fruits, those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any grace that is necessary for salvation.

Communion under both kinds is permitted for:

- a) Priests;
- b) Deacons and others who perform a duty at the Mass;
- c) Members of Catholic faith communities.

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<sup>4</sup> \* Information provided is from a letter to parishes by Bishop Richard Gagnon and the General Instruction of the Roman Missal when the new Missal was introduced 2011

### Appendix C

#### Intinction Form of Communion<sup>5</sup>

##### **What is the Church's teaching on Intinction, that is dipping the Host into the Chalice at Communion?**

This question was raised at the Parish Annual General Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The Liturgy Committee has discussed this question and reviewed what direction is given in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The direction of our Church is as follows;

##### **Dipping the host into the wine (also known as intinction) at Holy Communion,**

If Communion from the chalice is carried out by intinction this is done only by the priest and not the person receiving Communion. There are specific things that must be done in this Communion form to ensure no remnant of either the Body or the Blood of Christ is dropped or dripped onto the floor.

Section 287 GIRM: *"If Communion from the chalice is carried out by intinction, each communicant, holding a Communion-plate under the mouth, approaches the Priest who holds a vessel with the sacred particles, with a minister standing at his side and holding the chalice. The Priest takes a host, intincts it partly in the chalice and, showing it, says, The Body and Blood of Christ. The communicant replies, Amen, receives the Sacrament in the mouth from the Priest, and then withdraws."*

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<sup>5</sup> Respectfully submitted to and approved by the St. Edward's Liturgy Committee, Corpus Christi 2013

## Appendix D<sup>6</sup>

### GUIDELINES



## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

### DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

*Christ's faithful are to hold the blessed Eucharist in the highest honour. They should take an active part in the celebration of the most august Sacrifice; they should receive the sacrament with great devotion and frequency, and should reverence It with the greatest adoration. (Canon 898)*

#### **The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**

The minister of the Eucharist is a bishop or priest. "The only minister who, in the person of Christ, can bring into being the sacrament of the Eucharist is a validly ordained priest" (canon 900 §1). It is most fitting that he distributes Holy Communion to the faithful. The Bishop, the priest and the deacon by virtue of their sacred ordination are the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion (cf. canon 910).

"In addition to the ordinary ministers there is the formally instituted acolyte, who by virtue of his institution is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion even outside the celebration of Mass. If, moreover, reasons of real necessity prompt it, another lay member of Christ's faithful may also be delegated by the diocesan Bishop, in accordance with the norm of law, for one occasion or for a specified time" (*Redemptionis Sacramentum* 155).

The Holy See has emphasized that mandating Extraordinary Ministers must be based on the needs of the Church and the unavailability of ordinary ministers (Cf. *Ecclesiae de mysterio*, 8, 2; *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 157).

#### **Determining the need for Extraordinary Ministers**

Extraordinary Ministers may serve only if at least one of the following conditions exists (cf. *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 158):

- the priest and deacon are lacking
- the priest is prevented by weakness or advanced age or some other genuine reason
- the number of faithful coming to Communion is so great that the celebration of Mass would be unduly prolonged.

#### **Additional Considerations**

The preferred order of choosing Extraordinary Ministers is: duly installed acolytes, major seminarians, male and female Religious, catechists, Catholic men or women (cf. *Immensae Caritatis*, 4).

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<sup>6</sup> Guidelines sent out from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission October 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Mass

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Extraordinary Ministers always serve at the discretion of the priest. He decides if the requirements for the use of Extraordinary Ministers are present and how many will be needed.

The pastor or hospital chaplain may appoint properly mandated Extraordinary Ministers to serve the sick in hospitals or in nursing or private homes under the following conditions:

- that the priest as ordinary minister of Communion is faithful in continuing his sacramental ministry to those sick persons so that the service of the Extraordinary Minister supplements rather than replaces the ministry of the priest;
- that there is an objective pastoral need, e.g. the sick person's desire for more frequent reception of Communion than the priest's usual visitations provide;
- that the priest be available for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

### Personal qualifications

"The faithful who are [Extraordinary] Ministers of Communion must be persons whose good qualities of Christian life, faith and morals recommend them. Let them strive to be worthy of this great office, foster their own devotion to the Eucharist and show an example to the rest of the faithful by their own devotion and reverence toward the most august sacrament of the altar. No one is to be chosen whose appointment the faithful might find disquieting" (*Immensae Caritatis*, 6).

In the Diocese of Victoria the minimum age for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is twenty-one (21) years; however, persons older than this should generally be chosen.

### Appointment

The Bishop of Victoria or his delegate must mandate Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In case of necessity, the priest may commission suitable members of the faithful for a specific occasion.

A person mandated to serve as an Extraordinary Minister in his or her own parish (hospital, etc.) is not authorized to serve in that capacity in another parish (hospital, etc.).

### Term of the mandate

The term of the mandate is for three years, renewable for a second term. If there are exceptional reasons for wanting to appoint someone for a third term (or more) the Diocesan Liturgical Commission should be approached.

The mandate of an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion terminates one month after the appointment of a new pastor, even if the appointment falls within the three-year term of the Extraordinary Minister. This termination takes place automatically unless the new pastor explicitly requests otherwise. The automatic termination leaves the new pastor free to choose new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion if he so wishes and have them mandated by the Bishop.

### Parish and Diocesan procedures

The process of mandating is as follows:

- The pastor, hospital chaplain or school chaplain submits in writing to the Chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission the names of those persons recommended for mandating with a brief biography for each candidate. A response in writing will be given. Sufficient time should be allowed for this process to take place.

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The pastor should see to it that Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are properly instructed and each given a copy of these Guidelines.

### Rite of Commissioning

- The usual date for mandating will be a Sunday in the September to November period; this date will be selected by the pastor of each parish. Those nominated by the pastor or chaplain and approved by the Bishop are to be mandated during a liturgical celebration in the parish using the proper Rite (Celebration of Installation and Recognition, CCCB).
- When the priest celebrant deposes a layperson as Extraordinary Minister during one particular Mass, he uses the rite found in the Missal.

### Serving at Mass

- The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is to be seated with the assembly and not in the sanctuary.
- The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion should wear clothing that reflects the sacred dignity of his / her function. It is the pastor's responsibility to ensure proper dress and decorum.
- Under normal circumstances the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion should not perform any other distinct liturgical function or role (e.g. lector, leader of song, usher) within the same Mass.
- The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion does not assist in breaking the Host.
- The celebrant does not distribute Holy Communion to the Extraordinary Minister until he has received both species himself. The Extraordinary Minister may receive under both species according to established parish custom and then is given the ciborium by the celebrant and proceeds to the Communion station.
- When distributing Communion, the Extraordinary Minister raises the Sacred Host and says: "The Body of Christ," waits for "Amen," and places the Host on the tongue or in the hand of the communicant. The individual communicant always has the option of receiving in the hand or on the tongue.
- The Extraordinary Minister should take care not to drop particles of the Host onto the ground or onto the hands of the communicant.
  - If a Host falls, It is not given to the communicant, but is reverently consumed by the Extraordinary Minister or placed on the paten. It is then placed into a small receptacle of water, and put into the tabernacle or other secure place. When It has dissolved (i.e. no longer has the species of bread and is no longer the Body of Christ) the priest will pour the water into the sacrarium.
- When Communion is given to the faithful under both species, the Extraordinary Minister may be asked to administer the chalice.
- When presenting the chalice the Extraordinary Minister says "The Blood of Christ", to which the communicant responds "Amen". The Extraordinary Minister wipes the chalice with the purificator.
  - When Holy Communion is given under both species, the communicant is not to dip the Host into the chalice. (*For additional details on the reception of Communion under both kinds, please see Roman Missal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp 72- 73*).
- The liturgy does not call for a blessing to be given at Communion time, but where the custom has arisen of the priest offering a blessing to those who do not receive Holy Communion, the Extraordinary Minister may simply say: "May God bless you" (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic*

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Mass

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*Church*, 1669; canon 1169). The extraordinary minister is not to make the sign of the cross over the person receiving the blessing or to touch the person.

- After distributing Holy Communion, the Extraordinary Minister returns the ciborium or chalice to the priest at the altar or at the tabernacle or the Credence table according to parish custom. Only the priest, deacon and instituted acolyte are permitted to cleanse the sacred vessels.

### **Visiting the sick or shut-ins**

The Extraordinary Minister may be mandated to bring Holy Communion to the sick in hospitals, nursing homes or in private homes.

- The priest must supply the Extraordinary Minister with a proper pyx in which to carry the Blessed Sacrament to the sick.
- Whenever possible at Sunday or weekday Masses, the pyxes should be filled at Mass and the Communion calls made following the Mass so that the congregation and the sick individuals may be more conscious of their unity in the Holy Eucharist. Other arrangements may be made at the priest's discretion.
- The priest should supply the ritual for administration of Communion to the sick.
- The Hosts in pyx should be carried with great reverence. It is laudable to carry the pyx in a burse around the neck.
- Communion is taken directly to the sick and not carried until later in the day.
- In the case when a communicant has received the Host into the mouth and then, for some reason, rejects it, the Host is to be put into a small receptacle of water, and put into the tabernacle or other secure place. When it has dissolved (i.e. no longer has the species of bread and is no longer the Body of Christ) the priest will pour the water into the sacrarium.

**Diocesan Liturgical Commission**  
**June 2013**

### Appendix E<sup>7</sup>

#### Form of Blessing during Communion

In the Diocese of Victoria, it is encouraged that all those who present themselves in the Communion Line for a blessing by an ordained person or a layperson (EMHC) should receive a blessing. No one is to be denied.

It is understood that only an ordained person can give a blessing; nevertheless, a layperson can call down God's blessing upon another person **without** making the sign of the cross over the person.

The person calling upon God for the blessing should not touch the person with the fingers that are used to distribute the Eucharist. It is possible, however, to gently touch the person upon the head or the shoulders with the back of the remaining three fingers.

*(Please note that for some cultures, it is highly offensive to use the left hand for such a gesture and thus this should be avoided).*

Appropriate words for calling down the blessing are:

- Receive the Lord Jesus in your heart!
- May the Lord bless you!
- The blessing of Christ be yours!

An additional blessing that is appropriate for **very young children only** might be:

- Jesus loves you!

However, it should be noted that any of the three possibilities offered for adults is appropriate to use with children.

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<sup>7</sup> Guidelines sent out from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission October 20<sup>th</sup> 2015