

## **Guidelines for EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Introduction**

The Office of Worship together with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission has prepared the following guidelines for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion serving during Mass.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide help in this important ministry of the Church. For a smooth functioning of this ministry, the expectations of the universal and local Church, as well as those of the particular faith community, must be made known. Our guidelines define clearly the contents of the liturgical law on this matter and the requirements of a good Eucharistic liturgy.

### **Ministry of the Eucharist**

1. The distribution of the Body of Christ during the Mass is truly a ministry to the People of God. All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the most holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread.
2. Priority is always given to ordinary ministers, i.e. bishops, priests, deacons. If such ordinary ministers of Holy Communion **are not** present, “the priest may call upon an extraordinary minister to assist him” (the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*). Therefore, if another priest or the Bishop is present, there is no need for an extraordinary minister for that Mass.
3. Women and men who are eighteen years or older and fully initiated (Confirmed) are eligible for this ministry upon the approval of the pastor. They should be Catholics who sincerely try to live the Gospel message in their communal and individual lives. They should participate in the Sunday Eucharist regularly and practice their faith. In addition, they should be willing and able to carry out the ministry on behalf of the community.
4. The Diocese recommends that a term limit of 3 years be followed to enable others to serve in this ministry. Another recommendation is to participate in only one ministry during Mass at a time.

### **Procedure during the Mass**

5. **The priest will go to the Tabernacle to retrieve consecrated hosts. THIS IS A CHANGE. The extraordinary minister does not approach the altar before the priest has received Holy Communion and the Precious Blood.** The extraordinary minister will approach the worship area during the Sign of Peace, and stand/kneel and wait until the priest receives both Holy Communion and the Precious Blood. Afterward, the extraordinary minister will approach the side of the altar, use the hand sanitizer, then receive Holy Communion.
6. Following the distribution of Communion, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion return to their places within the assembly. The priest will return the consecrated hosts to the Tabernacle.

### **Ministration of Hosts**

7. The host is administered with the words: “The Body of Christ.” After the communicant has responded “Amen”, the host is placed on the tongue or in the hands according to the manner indicated by the communicant.
8. The host is always ministered to the communicant. Communicants are not permitted to take their own hosts and communicate themselves.
9. If a host falls to the ground during the distribution of Communion, ordinarily the minister should pick it up and consume it. If the host falls from the communicant’s mouth, the host can be carefully picked up with a corporal, then brought to the sacarium for proper disposal. The sacarium is located in the Sacristy. It is the right sink, with a lid marked by a cross. The drainage goes into the ground, and does not mix with the plumbing/septic.

### **Other Roles**

10. Please arrive 15 to 20 minutes before Mass to assure that the Altar Server has set-up for Mass, and assist if needed.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT MAURICE**