

## Appendix 22: Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

### Part 1: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass

#### Guidelines and Responsibilities

1. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to have received sufficient spiritual, theological, and practical preparation to fulfill their role with faith, knowledge and reverence. They must be fully initiated Catholics and have been properly commissioned and installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In all matters they should follow the guidance of the diocesan bishop.
2. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion ought to show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, by the manner in which they handle the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord, and by their attire.
3. The proper and only permissible form for distributing Holy Communion is to offer the Eucharistic Bread by saying, “The Body of Christ” and to offer the Precious Blood by saying, “The Blood of Christ.” No other words or names may be added or edited in any way. For those that come forward and do not wish to receive Holy Communion say “Receive the Lord Jesus into your heart” without making the sign of the cross.
4. When wiping the chalice, be careful not to dip the purificator into the precious blood. Wipe just the upper lip of the chalice.
5. If the Eucharistic Bread or some particle of it falls, it should be picked up reverently by the minister. The Eucharistic Bread may be consumed or completely dissolved in water before being poured down the sacrarium.
6. Should there be any mishap, for example if the Precious Blood is spilled from the chalice, the purificator is to be placed over the spill. After Mass has ended, the area will be washed by the priest, deacon, or instituted acolyte, and the water poured into the sacrarium. If carpet and the area cannot be cleaned in a manner respectful for the sacred species, the area should be removed and burned and a new piece of carpet installed.
7. In those instances when there remains more Precious Blood than was necessary, Extraordinary Ministers reverently consume what remains from their cup of distribution. The sacred vessels are to be purified only by the priest, deacon or an instituted acolyte then at that time or immediately after Mass. The amount of wine to be consecrated should be carefully measured before the celebration so that none remains afterward. It is strictly forbidden to pour the Precious Blood into the ground or into the sacrarium.

8. Those assigned to wash sacred vessels must wait for the vessels to be purified by a priest, deacon, or instituted acolyte before washing them; and are to follow any special directions to maintain proper care of the vessels.

(Based upon Roman Missal Formational Materials provided by the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010)

## **Part II: Rite of Deputing Minister to Distribute Holy Communion on a Single Occasion**

1. The Diocesan bishop has the faculty to permit individual Priests exercising sacred duties to depute a suitable member of the faithful to distribute Holy Communion with them on a single occasion, in cases of real necessity.
2. When one of the faithful is deputed to distribute Communion on a single occasion in such cases, it is fitting that a mandate to do so should be conferred according to the following rite.
3. After the Priest Celebrant himself has received the Sacrament in the usual way, the extraordinary minister comes to the altar and stands before the Celebrant who blesses him or her with these words:

*May the Lord bless you ✠ so that at this  
Mass you may minister the Body and  
Blood of Christ to your brothers and  
sisters.*

And he or she replies:

Amen.

4. If the extraordinary minister is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist, the Priest gives Communion to the minister. Then the Priest gives him or her the ciborium or vessel with the hosts or the chalice and together they go to administer Communion to the faithful.