

Appendix 21: Purification of Sacred Vessels

In 2006, the bishops of our country were informed by Cardinal Francis Arinze, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, that the Holy Father decided not to extend the 2002 indult permitting Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to assist with the purification of the sacred vessels at Mass. I ask that all parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Bismarck continue to adhere to this decision and observe faithfully no 279 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (third typical edition): “The sacred vessels are purified by the priest, the deacon, or an instituted acolyte after Communion or after Mass.”

However, at times it may not be feasible to distribute under both kinds because of insufficient number of ordinary ministers for the purification of the sacred vessels. Consideration should be given, then, to the distribution of Holy Communion by intinction or under the form of the consecrated bread alone.