

July 2004

Dear Weekend Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,

Thanks to all for the wonderful and faithful service that you offer to the Cathedral community. A special welcome goes to those who have joined our ranks recently. Everything is going very well with the celebration of the Eucharist and the implementation of the new GIRM. Thank you for your cooperation. Some updates:

1. **Greeting Worshippers!** Beginning immediately, all Ex. Mins. of Holy Communion are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass. After signing-in in the Sacristy, **all** are asked to divide themselves between the East Ninth Street entrance and the North Side (ramp) entrance to greet worshippers, welcome them to the Cathedral, offer them a bulletin, assist with the parking validation, and provide hospitality. When the cantor approaches the lectern for the announcements, the Communion Ministers/Greeters can take their places. New Name Badges will be available in the sacristy, please retrieve them and return them before and after Mass.
2. The **Communion Cups** will now be brought to the altar during the Preparation of the Altar. All of the wine to be used at the mass will be included in the large flagon. Only the plate with bread and the flagon with wine will be in the procession of gifts. The cruet of water will remain on the credence table and brought to the altar for the preparation of the chalice after the gifts are received.
3. During the Lamb of God, only the Ministers of Holy Communion need to **gather on the steps** of the sanctuary as we have all been doing. The Servers and Lectors remain at their seats. Once the Ministers of Communion have begun receiving Communion, the Lectors and Servers will simply walk straight from their seats into the Communion line.
4. Cup Ministers (at typical masses when there are only two cups) must be careful to place themselves at the outer ends of the front pews near the side aisle, facing the center aisle, with your hip against the bench. When the cup minister inadvertently moves near the sanctuary step by the pillar congestion is unavoidable.
5. It is **NOT** our practice to **refuse Holy Communion to anyone**. The rare case in which someone is confused or obviously not familiar with the Catholic Communion Rite is the exception. Always err on the side of charity and generosity.
6. **Taking Holy Communion to the homebound** is a kind and generous act of ministry. We would like to begin making Communion available to our homebound members on a weekly basis. Any Minister of Holy Communion who is willing and available should indicate this to the office. If you know of someone who is away from Church and would like Communion, please make this known to us also.

Again, everything is going very well. Remember that your professional, “Sunday best” attire and your careful performance of your ministry says so much to those who worship in the Eucharist. Please remind each other of this update (because some people don’t read everything). Thanks again. Please note that **January 8, 2005** will be our Ministry Appreciation Dinner.

Fr. Estok and Staff