



# Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

## **Norms for Administering Holy Communion by Extraordinary Ministers**

The most Holy Eucharist and merciful love of God contained therein is a great mystery, the source and summit of our faith. It should not be treated casually. By willingly implementing these norms, the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls will assure proper respect and reverence is given to the Blessed Sacrament, will communicate to others our faith in the real presence, and will reveal our loving response to God present in the Blessed Sacrament.

1. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must
  - (a) Be confirmed, practicing Catholics, and if married in a valid marriage;
  - (b) Have knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church which are applied to their lives;
  - (c) Show proper respect to and reverence for the most Holy Eucharist; and
  - (d) Have participated in a training session which covers the following:
    - i. Catechesis about the most Holy Eucharist and the role of the laity in the life of the Church
    - ii. Catechesis about acceptable forms of Eucharistic piety
    - iii. Instruction about the proper and reverent manner of distributing Holy Communion under both Species
    - iv. Instruction on the Diocesan norm for purifying sacred vessels used to carry Holy Communion
    - v. Instruction about the Rite to be followed when taking Holy Communion to the homebound and the infirm.
2. Procedure for commissioning a member of the Christian Faithful as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion:
  - (a) After having offered a period of training for members of the Christian faithful, the pastor is to submit names of persons with an attestation of meeting the norms above to the diocesan bishop, who, as chief liturgist of the Diocese, is responsible for choosing and designating individuals as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.
  - (b) The diocesan bishop will offer a letter designating the persons to be commissioned as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion for a term of 3 years. Terms may be renewed.
  - (c) Upon reception of this letter, the pastor is to publicly commission these persons as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion using “The Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion” found in *The Book of Blessings*, Chapter 63.
  - (d) The pastor is to keep record of those commissioned and should provide opportunities for their ongoing spiritual formation.
3. In the case of necessity and for one time only, a pastor may designate another member of the Christian Faithful to distribute Holy Communion.

4. “It is never allowed for the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to delegate anyone else to administer the Eucharist, as for example a parent or spouse or child of the sick person who is the communicant” (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 159).
5. The Rite to be followed for the administration of Holy Communion is found in Chapter 2 of *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*.
6. Proper attire for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion is important in order to show due respect and reverence for the presence of Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist.
  - (a) Men should wear a collared shirt and dress slacks and dress shoes. Coat and tie are encouraged.
  - (b) Women should wear apparel that is modest in nature and covers the shoulders.
7. A pyx and burse should always be used when carrying the Blessed Sacrament. These may be owned personally by the extraordinary minister or be on loan from the parish.
8. The Blessed Sacrament is to be obtained in the following manner:
  - (a) Outside Holy Mass:
    - i. The priest or deacon is to approach the tabernacle and obtain the Blessed Sacrament which is placed in a pyx and then into a burse and given to the extraordinary minister.
    - ii. The extraordinary minister is to return the pyx to the priest or deacon. If there remain unconsumed hosts, the priest or deacon is to place them in the tabernacle and then purify the pyx for future use.
    - iii. The lay faithful should not approach the tabernacle without permission of the pastor or of the priest who serves as chaplain. Such practice should not be seen as the norm.
  - (b) During Holy Mass
    - i. The extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is to place the pyx in the Sacristy or on the credence table prior to Holy Mass. The number of hosts needed is to be indicated and with the consent of the pastor even placed in the pyx in advance. The pyx will be placed on the altar for consecration when the altar is prepared.
    - ii. After receiving Holy Communion or after the final blessing, the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is to receive the pyx from the priest or deacon and then place it in the burse and depart from the Church in order to administer Holy Communion to the homebound or infirm. The administration is presumed to occur immediately after Holy Mass.
    - iii. The Blessed Sacrament is not to be obtained while in the Communion Procession.
    - iv. During the Communion Procession, the Blessed Sacrament should never be given to a non-commissioned person to take to another outside of Mass nor to anyone not serving at the Mass to take to someone unable to come forward at Mass. The minister of communion rather should personally go to that person.
9. Carrying the Blessed Sacrament
  - (a) The burse is always to be worn around one’s neck or reverently placed in one’s clothing.

- (b) The burse must remain on the person serving as Extraordinary Minister and, therefore, should never be placed in one's purse, glove compartment, on the passenger seat, or any other casual location.
- (c) Carrying the Blessed Sacrament is a privileged and solemn act and the atmosphere in which it is done should be appropriate. All who carry the Holy Eucharist need avoid actions that reveal irreverence for the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, including in an automobile or other locations.

10. If there remain unconsumed hosts, these are to be taken immediately to the Church after administering Holy Communion to the homebound or infirm.

- (a) No errands should be run.
- (b) The Blessed Sacrament is not to be kept in one's home.