

ADDENDUM to Archbishop Schnurr's Letter to Priests

Important items to note from *This Holy and Living Sacrifice: A Formation Resource for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

- 1) As the local ordinary, I am giving general delegation for pastors to permit the use of low-gluten hosts for persons with gluten intolerance. Medical certification is not required. (Cf. pp. 5 & 6)
- 2) For Communion to the sick, all parishes should distribute hosts into pyxes at the altar during the Fraction Rite of Mass. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMsHC) should be called forward by the deacon/priest after the Post-Communion prayer to receive their pyx. In other words, hosts should not be placed in a pyx in the Communion procession. Many parishes have already implemented this practice and have found it to be worthwhile. EMsHC visiting the sick may also go to the tabernacle to obtain hosts outside of Mass with the pastor's permission. (Cf. pp. 6 & 7)
- 3) Letters requesting authorization to commission EMsHC are to be sent to the director of the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments (ODWS), Karen Kane, and she, in turn, will send a letter of authorization. There is a sample letter for requesting authorization on the ODWS webpage for EMsHC. Go to: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/EMHC-Sample-letter-for-authorization.docx> In addition, parishes/institutions should send an updated list of EMsHC on an annual basis. (Cf. p. 8)
- 4) EMsHC should be commissioned every year. This annual (re)commissioning should normally take place at the Sunday Masses on the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Commissioning may take place at other times of the year for new EMsHC. The Order for the Commissioning of EMsHC is found in the *Book of Blessings* and is available as a Word document on the ODWS webpage for EMsHC. Go to: [http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Order Commissioning EMsHC.pdf](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Order_Commissioning_EMsHC.pdf) (Cf. p. 8)
- 5) The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM, 85), as well as the *Norms for Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States* (NDRHC, 30), state that the faithful should receive hosts consecrated at the Mass at which they are participating. As far as it is possible, I ask priests/deacons to refrain from going to the tabernacle during the Fraction Rite. If additional hosts are needed, then a minister may go to the tabernacle. This will require sacristans or other Mass coordinators to keep track of the number of people gathered so that the appropriate number of hosts are consecrated for Mass. (See also, "My Sacrifice and Yours," Appendix III.6, pp. 27 – 30.)
- 6) The GIRM (283) and NDRHC (24) state that the local ordinary may create norms for the distribution of Holy Communion under both Kinds. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the

norm is as follows: “To the best of their ability, each parish should offer both species at all Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist, and if possible, at other celebrations of the Eucharist when it can be done with reverence and dignity.” This is particularly true for sacramental celebrations, especially First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, and Funeral Masses. Normally, the Precious Blood is to be distributed from ancillary chalices (cups). (Cf. p. 5)

- 7) For those EMsHC who participate in the archdiocesan formation program, they will be commissioned to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at all parishes and at other institutions in the Archdiocese when called upon by the pastor or principle celebrant of the Mass. Details of the formation process will be outlined by the ODWS and communicated on the ODWS webpage and in Clergy Communications. (Cf., p. 9)

Additional liturgical norms for the distribution and reception of Holy Communion:

- 1) In the dioceses of the United States, the appropriate posture for the lay faithful as they receive Holy Communion is standing. In addition, they are to make a slight bow of the head as a sign of reverence as they receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. If a person wishes to kneel, he/she may choose to do so of his/her own accord and Communion is to be given. However, for the sake of unity in parishes of the Archdiocese and across the country, pastors or individual priests should make the faithful aware of the directive to stand as they receive Holy Communion. (Cf. GIRM, 160)
- 2) It is the prerogative of the communicant to choose between reception of Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand. Pastors or individual priests may not require communicants to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand – it is the communicant’s choice. In addition, Holy Communion may never be withheld from the communicant because of his/her choice for reception of Holy Communion. (Cf. GIRM, 160; NDRHC, 41)
- 3) Children are to be catechized about how to receive Holy Communion, including both options for reception (in the hand/on the tongue). Furthermore, they are to be catechized about the reception of Holy Communion under both kinds and encouraged to participate in the reception of the fullness of this Most Holy Sacrament on a regular basis.

July, 2018

