

APPENDIX

Additional directives to the *Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* [revised as of February 22, 2010 based on Liturgical Norms and Policies of the Archdiocese of Washington].

- A. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may not assist at the Preparation of the Gifts (including distributing hosts among ciboria or pouring wine into chalices), in the *fractio panis*, or in the purification of sacred vessels.
- B. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion approach the altar as the priest receives Communion. After the priest has concluded his own Communion, he distributes Communion to the extraordinary ministers, assisted by the deacon, and then hands the sacred vessels to them for the distribution of Holy Communion to the people. Extraordinary ministers should not take the sacred vessels from the altar themselves, but should be handed them by the priest or deacon.
- C. Extraordinary ministers are deputed for the sole purpose of distributing Holy Communion. They are not to administer blessings or lay hands upon people who approach them but who do not wish to receive Communion, even if they are requested to do so. There is one blessing at the end of the Mass for the entire congregation, imparted by the priest.

Lay people, within the context of the Holy Mass, are unable to confer blessings. These blessings, rather, are the competence of the priest.
- D. In the course of carrying out their function, which is solely to distribute Holy Communion in the absence of ordinary ministers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are not to administer blessings, especially with the Blessed Sacrament.
- E. Neither deacons nor lay ministers may ever receive Holy Communion in the manner of a concelebrating priest. The practice of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion waiting to receive Communion until after the distribution of Communion is not in accord with liturgical law.
- F. The chalice is usually administered by a deacon or, when no deacon is present, by a priest, or even by a duly instituted acolyte or another extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, or by a member of the faithful who in case of necessity has been entrusted with this duty for a single occasion.
- G. Communion under either form, bread or wine, must always be given by an ordinary or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.
- H. The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction.
- I. The communicant must not be permitted to intinct the host himself in the chalice, nor to receive the intincted host in the hand.
- J. When intinction is being used, in the case of a communicant attempting to self-communicate by intincting the host, he or she should be instructed by the minister to hand over the host. The minister then intincts the host as above.
- K. Whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ is consumed at the altar by the priest or deacon, or by the instituted acolyte who ministered the chalice. He then purifies, wipes, and arranges the sacred vessels in the usual way. Any of the faithful who wish to receive Holy Communion under the species of bread alone should be granted their wish.
- L. The reverence due to the Precious Blood of the Lord demands that it be fully consumed after Communion is completed and never be poured into the ground or the *sacrarium*.
- M. The Precious Blood may not be reserved, except for giving Communion to someone who is sick and is unable to consume the host.
- N. The sacred vessels are purified by the priest, the deacon, or an instituted acolyte after Communion either at the altar or at a credence table, or after Mass at a credence table. The purification of the chalice is done with water alone or with wine and water, which is then drunk by whoever does the purification. The paten is usually wiped clean with the purificator.