

# LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER GUIDELINES

(Changes since the last Guidelines are **bolded**, and in CAPITAL LETTERS.)

- 1) When you are scheduled to be a Eucharistic minister, arrive 5 to 10 minutes before Mass begins and check your name off on the copy of the schedule attached to the clipboard sitting on the table to the right of the sink in the Sacristy. At the same time, take one of the numbered cards laid out by the schedule, select the position you want during Communion and place the card in the matching numbered holder on the bulletin board showing the Communion stations. Just before Mass begins, the Eucharistic minister Mass Captain will check to see what positions have not been filled and find Eucharistic ministers in the congregation to take these remaining positions.
- 2) At the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses, 6 Eucharistic ministers are needed, including the priest and deacon. At the 10:30 a.m. mass, 9 Eucharistic ministers are needed, including the priest and deacon.
- 3) When To Come To The Altar And What To Do.
  - a. When the congregation begins to sing the “Lamb of God,” leave your pew and go to the pews that have been reserved at the Blessed Virgin Mary chapel aisle or the St. Joseph chapel aisle, whichever is closest to you.
  - b. At the end of the “Lamb of God,” kneel in the pews for the prayer “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.”
  - c. After “I shall be healed,” stand and go into the sanctuary, standing on either side of the small table.
- 4) Distribution Of The Body And Blood Of Christ
  - a. The priest will distribute the hosts, beginning with the servers and then the Eucharistic ministers, moving from his left to right.
  - b. The deacon will distribute the precious blood, beginning with the servers and then the Eucharistic ministers. After receiving, you keep the cup that the deacon hands you. This is the cup you will use to distribute the precious blood to the congregation. Pick up a pacificator from the table. *(as needed, the priest will give the hosts to a minister to distribute.)*
- 5.) At the 10:30 a.m. Mass the three stations for the Body of Christ are located at the aisles on either side of the main aisle and the aisle directly behind the main altar. At the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses, the Body of Christ is distributed at two stations located at the aisles on either side of the main aisle. Eucharistic ministers distributing the Precious Blood take up their position on either side of these aisles at your assigned position. If your chalice is emptied first, if possible, tell the Eucharistic minister closest to you, who then is to turn and face forward so that both sides may be served from the one chalice. If you are distributing the Body of Christ and do not have enough, you may go to one of the other ministers distributing the Body to get additional hosts. It is acceptable to break the host into smaller

pieces if necessary. (If a host is dropped during the distribution of the Body of Christ, pick it up, hold it in your hand, and consume it later when you return to the altar.) Please note: do not use the name of the person when distributing either the body or blood of Christ. Simply say, "The body of Christ" or "the blood of Christ."

- 6.) Eucharistic ministers distributing the Body and Blood near the school side of the church need to attend to the needs of any parishioners unable to walk to the Communion station, as well as the musicians.
- 7.) **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS THAT ARE DISTRIBUTING THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY FROM TIME TO TIME ENCOUNTER AN INDIVIDUAL THAT REQUESTS A BLESSING. THIS MAY BE A YOUNG CHILD, A CHRISTIAN THAT IS NOT A FULL MEMBER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR SOMEONE THAT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST AT THAT TIME. MANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS APPROACH THE EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER WITH THEIR ARMS FOLDED ACROSS THEIR CHEST. IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU AS AN E.M. TO GIVE THESE INDIVIDUALS A BLESSING. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A SIMPLE PRAYER SUCH AS "MAY THE LORD ALMIGHTY BLESS YOU, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AMEN" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR THAT YOU WOULD BE COMFORTABLE SAYING. IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE SAYING A SMALL BLESSING, A SIMPLE SIGN OF THE CROSS ON THE FOREHEAD OF THE RECIPIENT WITH YOUR THUMB COULD ALSO BE PERFORMED.**

**WHEN YOU GIVE THE BLESSING, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU PLACE YOUR HAND ON THE SHOULDER OF THE PERSON YOU ARE BLESSING – NOT THE HEAD OF THE PERSON. IN SOME CULTURES THIS IS A DEGRADING PRACTICE AND THOSE FOLLOWING THE INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING THE BLESSING MAY NOT APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST AFTER YOU HAVE TOUCHED SOMEONE’S HEAD.**

- 8.) When you are finished, take the chalice to the Sacristy. Whatever remains of the Precious Blood is usually consumed among the Eucharistic ministers. Do NOT pour any down the drain. If you and the other Eucharistic ministers cannot consume what remains, leave the chalice covered with a purificator on the vesting table for the Presider to consume. If you have distributed the Body of Christ, return the remaining consecrated hosts to the Priest or Deacon. Place the empty paten on the vesting table in the Sacristy.
- 9.) Rinse and dry the chalices in the Sacristy. Use a towel, not a purificator, to dry. Rinsing water should be consumed or poured down the sacrarium. Place the purificator in the basket to the right of the sink. Place the chalices on the table next to the sink. NOTE that it is the responsibility of the Eucharistic minister Mass Captain (or designate) to purify the paten and Precious Blood decanter at the end of Communion or immediately after Mass.
- 10.) Please note the dates that you are scheduled to serve as a Eucharistic minister. If for some reason you cannot serve when assigned, it is your responsibility to get a substitute.

