



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

NORMS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS IN THE DIOCESES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the Breaking of the Bread

38. If extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are required by pastoral need, they should not approach the altar before the Priest has received 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 distribution of Holy Communion to the people.

PRACTICAL PROTOCOL FROM YOUR PASTOR

- A. Approach the altar after the priest finishes saying 'behold the Lamb of God'. Get up and move directly to the left side of the altar. Do NOT meet up or wait for other ministers. Enter the sanctuary individually.
- B. On the days you serve, sit in the front third of church, preferably on left side at the end of the pew for quick exit to the altar (center aisle on right would also be OK).
- C. Immediately after your service is finished leave your vessel on the credence table, and proceed back to your pew do not wait for any other ministers
- D. Each minister has the responsibility to clean the vessels in the sacristy after Mass. If The Priest has not purified the vessels he will leave a purificator draped over the communion paten, please purify before washing. Automatically purify vessels whenever a visiting Priest says Mass.

39. All receive Holy Communion in the manner described by the *General Instruction to the Roman Missal*, whether Priest concelebrants (cf. GIRM, nos. 159, 242, 243, 246), Deacons (cf. GIRM, nos. 182, 244, 246), or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (cf. GIRM, no. 284). 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 Holy Communion until after the distribution of Holy Communion is not in accord with liturgical law.

Distribution of the Body and Blood of the Lord

43. The chalice is offered to the communicant with the words "The Blood of Christ," to which the communicant responds, "Amen."

45. After each communicant has received the Blood of Christ, the minister carefully wipes both sides of the rim of the chalice with a purificator. This action is a matter of both reverence and hygiene. For the same reason, the minister turns the chalice slightly after each communicant has received the Precious Blood.

