

## Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

### TERMS

Extra-Ordinary is used in the sense outside of the normal order. The Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a priest or deacon, i.e., it is their role to distribute Holy Communion.

### ROLE

The Role of the Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EOMHC) is to assist in the distribution of Communion when:

1. There are not enough ordinary ministers available and;
2. When the congregation is so large that it would take one priest or deacon too long to distribute Holy Communion alone.

### PROCEDURE

1. After the **Kiss of Peace** is offered, the EOMHC is to enter the sanctuary and go immediately to the back to use the Hand Sanitizer.
2. They are to wait there until the priest has received from the chalice.
3. Once the priest has received from the chalice, they approach the altar to the side.
4. The priest distributes Holy Communion to them and they, in turn, go to their positions in the church to distribute to the faithful.
5. After they have finished, they return the ciborium to the altar, placing it there and then going back to the shelf with the hand sanitizer.
6. There they will use the small bowl with water to dip their fingers and then dry them on the cloth.
7. They will then return to their seats either by going through the sanctuary or by going through the sacristy.

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

1. You will no longer go to the tabernacle.
2. You need to wait until after the priest has received from the chalice before approaching the altar.

### OTHER POINTS:

1. Given the importance of this ministry, those who exercise it should be dressed in appropriate attire. Shorts, halter tops, muscle shirts or other summer attire should be avoided.
2. If another priest or deacon is present in the sanctuary, the EOMHC does not assist. Every effort will be made to contact you prior to the Mass.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

***Q: What do I do when the host falls?***

A: Immediately stop and pick up the host and consume the host. If you cannot do this for whatever reason, give it to the priest beside you to consume it.

***Q: What do I do for people who are coming up for a blessing?***

A: Ideally, people who do not receive communion for whatever reason, should remain in their pews and pray for a spiritual communion. However, this is not the reality and so:

- For a child, simply trace a cross on their foreheads, saying nothing.
- For an adult, say: "God's blessings upon you". You may or may not want to touch their head.

From now on, these are the only two options. Please do not give a blessing with the Host.

***Q: What if someone doesn't know what they are doing; it is obvious they are not Catholic or have never received before?***

A: Immediately say: "God's blessings upon you" or trace a cross on their forehead. It is better to be safe in this instant.

***Q: What if I notice someone take the Host but he or she does not consume it?***

A: This generally happens at School Masses. I have asked teachers to stand watch to ensure the children consume the host. Otherwise, you may go after the person and ask them to consume the host or, you may ask the priest to do this for you.