

Blessing and Dismissal from Mass for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Bringing Communion to the Sick

It is most fitting to bring Communion to the sick from the Mass at the parish church. A rite of blessing and dismissal is appropriate as the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are sent forth to the sick or elderly. *Pastoral Care of the Sick 73 and Canon 922*

Note: *This Rite of Dismissal from Mass for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Who Bring Communion to the Sick* may be adapted according to the customs of each community.

- ❖ Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take Communion to the sick are called forth from the assembly after Communion has been distributed to the assembled community.
- ❖ At the altar, the Priest places the required number of hosts, consecrated at the Mass, into each pyx. He closes the pyxes and hands them to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- ❖ The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion remain there as the Priest addresses the assembly and the ministers, with prayers of blessing and direction, using one of these or similar words:

***“As you go to the sick and the homebound,
take with you not only the sacrament we have celebrated,
but also the Word of God which we have heard,
as well as the affection of this parish community.
Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return.
Go, now, with God’s peace and blessing.”***

or

***“Brothers and sisters,
you are sent from this assembly
to bring the Word of God and the Bread of Life
to the sick and homebound members of our parish family.
Go to them with our love,
our care and our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and gentle healer.”***

- ❖ The Prayer after Communion follows.
- ❖ It is recommended that the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take Communion to the sick then depart immediately for their visits to the sick.