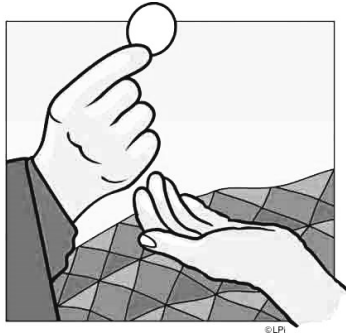


EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND GUIDELINES



As a pastoral care minister, you come to the homebound residents representing the parish of St. Benedict. Your visit provides what other activities cannot: caring personal presence. Those who visit the nursing homes bring a segment of the world to a person who cannot venture into the world. You bring Church, that gathering of two or more in the name of Jesus, to one who is unable to attend Mass. Your visit is not the visit of an individual but represents the concern of many. You come in the name of the Church; your visit enables communion, union with the Body of Christ. This ministry, therefore, should always begin with prayer. Please take time for personal prayer before you begin your visit.

Prayer of preparation for the Minister

Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation. You comfort us in all our afflictions and thus enable us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we receive from you.

God of compassion, fill me with the power of your Word and the love of your Holy Spirit as I visit your suffering sons and daughters. Help me so that I may worthily and gracefully share your sacred presence with those who await your coming to them. May the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ heal and comfort us, deepen our faith, and strengthen our hope in the imperishable inheritance you have promised to those who seek you.

Father, I pray to you for myself and for those I visit, in the saving time of Jesus, our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

- Prior to beginning this ministry, you must first be trained as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.
- The family or friends of a homebound person will usually inform the Pastor or Associate of the need for home visitation. The Pastor or Associate will make the first visit to get an understanding of the person's needs.
- Each volunteer will be assigned one or more persons to visit. You will be notified by a phone call from the Parish Office of the name and phone number of the person you will be visiting. Contact this person by phone and set up your first visit.
- You will bring the Eucharist in your own pyx which is given to you at the training.
- Before making your visit, come to the church to obtain the Eucharist. The key to the tabernacle is kept in a locked cabinet in the back sacristy. A copy of the cabinet key is kept in Karen's office. Genuflect before the tabernacle. Use the key to open the tabernacle door. From the chalice, obtain the Body of Christ which you will reverently place in the pyx. Place the cord around your neck, with the sacrament placed close to your heart. After you obtain the Eucharist, lock the tabernacle and return the key to the cabinet and make sure it's locked. Then return the cabinet key to Karen.
- You are to visit the person immediately after taking the Eucharist from the tabernacle. Remember that you are carrying our Lord, so avoid any unnecessary conversations or distractions. Please never keep the Eucharist in your car, home, purse or pocket for an extended period of time.
- When you arrive at the home of the person you are visiting, follow the recommended procedure as outline in the pamphlet "Communion of the Sick in Ordinary Circumstances."
- Allow some time quiet time after the person has received the Eucharist. Before leaving, discuss the desired frequency of future visitations.
- If, for some reason, your person cannot receive the Eucharist that day or is not there when you arrive, please return the Eucharist to the tabernacle as soon as possible.
- In the event that your person cannot receive the entire Host, break off a small piece, give to the person, and bring the remaining unused portion back to the tabernacle immediately after your visit has ended.
- In the rare circumstance that the person spits up the Eucharist, collect the remnants in a tissue or paper towel. Place the remnants in water to dissolve. (Once dissolved, this is no longer Eucharist). You may then pour the contents in the ground and burn the tissue or paper towel. You may also bring an extra pyx with you and place the Eucharist in it and follow the above directions.
- Purify your pyx at home by following these instructions: Pour a small amount of water into the pyx, and then drink the water. Do not dry the pyx. Leave it open and let it air dry.
- Good communication with the Parish Office is essential. If you should notice any changes in the person you are visiting, or if the need has arisen for a priest to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please immediately contact the Pastor or the Associate Pastor.
- Remember that when you are visiting you are a guest in their home. It is important to maintain boundaries such as confidentiality and not expanding your role. In regard to confidentiality, for example, you cannot spontaneously place someone's name on the public prayer list without asking their permission.