



“Can spouses communicate themselves with the chalice [of the Precious Blood]?”

No.

As a part of our continuing catechesis of the faith, clergy, the parishes’ mandated Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC), and the faithful are reminded of our faithful duty and responsibility to follow the Church’s published instructions from the Magisterium (e.g., Instruction on the Eucharist (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*), USCCB, 2004)”, which states:

#85: “*Catholic ministers licitly [lawfully] administer the Sacraments only to the Catholic faithful, who likewise receive them licitly only from Catholic ministers ... from which no dispensation [permissions or exceptions] can be given.*”

#94: “*It is not licit [it is unlawful] for the faithful ‘to take ... by themselves ... and, still less, to hand from one to another, the sacred host or the sacred chalice’. Moreover, in this regard, the abuse is to be set aside [stopped, discontinued] whereby spouses administer Holy Communion to each other at a Nuptial Mass [or any liturgy, for that matter].*”

#159: “*It is never allowed for the [EMHC] to delegate anyone else to administer the Eucharist.*”

Therefore, the only person who may lawfully administer Holy Communion during the Church’s liturgies to the faithful is the: Priest, Deacon or a mandated EMHC (scheduled and performing their unique ministry in and for, that particular liturgical celebration). A mandated EMHC, not scheduled or asked to perform the EMHC ministry during a liturgical celebration, is therefore solely fulfilling their role as a member of the gathered assembly.

Our parishes’ EMHC have been reminded and instructed, as an integral part of their remandation by Bishop Sheridan, that if a couple attempts to communicate between themselves (i.e., simply hand/share the chalice of Precious Blood to the other), the EMHC is to fulfill their ministerial role during the Rite of Communion: by interrupting the transfer; reclaiming the chalice; wiping/cleansing the top of the chalice; and then communicating the remaining spouse.

I respectfully ask that those of our faith communities be aware of the Church’s teachings on this important subject and, if necessary, discontinue this unfortunate and illicit Communion practice.