Holy Communion to Sick, Hospitalized, Homebound, and In-Resident Assisted Care/Hospice Facilities

Since as early as 150 AD, following the Lord’s Day Eucharistic celebration, ministers took Holy Communion from the Sunday gathered assembly, to those who were unable to be present. These included people who were in prison for living according to the gospel, and those otherwise unable to attend (e.g., the sick and the infirm, etc.).

To ALL EMHCs to the Homebound:

In order to comply with the Church’s established liturgical norms (including the General Instruction to the Roman Missal (GIRM)), I respectfully request your kind assistance in implementing the following, effective Sunday, April 24, 2016:

(1) Currently mandated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs), who have been specially trained for this unique and praiseworthy ministry, please:

   (a) Utilize only the church-issued or approved pyx(es) to transport consecrated hosts to the sick, homebound, hospitalized, and those in assisted care facilities;

   (b) Utilize only church-issued or approved liturgical books, which provide the prescribed norms and liturgy regarding the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Communion, during each visit. If you need one, please contact the parish office;

   (c) Visit, offer, and distribute Holy Communion to all Catholics (able to validly receive Holy Communion) in the home, hospital, or assisted care facilities. Selective distribution of Holy Communion to friends or family members is highly discouraged and not permitted—especially when/if there is question whether they are Catholic; and

   (d) Bring and leave a current parish bulletin with the person/family visited.

(2) If during your visit, the person to be visited relates that they are in need of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and/or Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please contact and relay this information to the parish office or Pastor. Note: The Church’s norms discourage simply visiting the homebound/hospitalized at fixed intervals (i.e., monthly); in that it infers or implies that sacraments (like a milk carton) have fixed expiration dates.

(3) If you are scheduled to visit a sick person or facility and later find you are unable to fulfill this vital and important ministry, please find another qualified EMHC replacement. If you are unsuccessful in locating a replacement, please notify the parish’s Homebound EMHC Coordinator/Scheduler or the parish office, as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your continued ministry to those who, due to physical conditions or ailments, are unable to physically participate in the Eucharistic celebration in the Church. May God bless you abundantly in your good stewardship works!