



GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

The guidelines for *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* [EMHC] serving in the Diocese of Saginaw became effective on June 22, 2014 with the promulgation of **Guidelines and Protocols for Liturgical Ministers**. The new norms for EMHC reflect changes in both the Church's universal law concerning the Eucharist (i.e., *Redemptionis Sacramentum* - 2004), and the particular law from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for all the dioceses of the United States.

Whether within or outside of the celebration of Mass, the EMHC's role is specific: to distribute the Body and Blood of the Lord. Thus, *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* is the accurate title for those who serve the Church in this way. References such as "Eucharistic minister" or "special minister of the Eucharist" should no longer be used.

I. *Selection of Candidates*

A pastor or pastoral administrator will recommend the EMHC to the Bishop, who alone grants the faculty for the exercise of this ministry.

The pastor must vigilantly avoid the appearance that the ministry is favoritism of any kind, or "reward" for a favor received. Candidates may be those in consecrated life or the lay faithful.

II. *Criteria*

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must be:

- A Roman Catholic whose qualities of Christian life, faith, and morals recommend them;

- A fully initiated member of the Catholic community (i.e., have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist);
- At least 16 years old;
- A parishioner in good standing who faithfully participates in the sacramental life of the Church; and
- (If married) Within a wedding bond that is recognized (valid) in the Roman Catholic Church.

The pastor or pastoral administrator should inquire about the candidate's qualifications and personal motivation for this ministry. If the candidate was selected as an EMHC since July 2009 he or she must submit a recently issued (within six months) copy of their baptismal certificate to the pastor or pastoral administrator.

III. Nomination and Appointment

Once the pastor or pastoral administrator has identified suitable candidates, he/she will nominate them, in writing, for the Bishop's consideration. Thus, the pastor or pastoral administrator affirms that the candidates meet the general criteria (see above) and recommends that the Bishop appoints them as an EMHC. The pastor or pastoral administrator should submit the "Nomination Form" (which includes multiple candidates) to the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

NB: The "Nomination Form" is available from the Office of Liturgy and upon completion is to be returned the same office.

Once the candidate has completed the required Formation Session (presented by the Office of Liturgy) the Bishop will then issue the pastor or pastoral administrator a certificate appointing the nominee for a renewable, three-year term.

The pastor or pastoral administrator should then present the certificate to the EMHC after the prescribed ceremony of installation.

If you have questions for clarification, please call the Office of Liturgy (989-797-6665).