

Extraordinary Ministers

Mar 2010

PLEASE READ

ALL MINISTERS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK IN AT THE EASTER MASS YOU ATTEND. WE NEED HELP AT ALL MASSES.

LEADS AND CAPTAINS

**PLEASE CHECK EASTER SCHEDULE
WE NEED A LEAD FOR EACH MASS IN THE HALL
PLEASE CALL ME**

Thank You

Rocco 240-8037

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

PLEASE READ LETTER FROM FR. CHRIS

Dear Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

For those who were at the training on Saturday, thank you for coming. I realize that many were unable to attend due to the Men's Retreat, other plans, or somehow just didn't get the message, so I am sending this letter to communicate the most important points from the training.

Please arrive 15 minutes early: It's very difficult for the Leads to find all the people they need when it all happens at the last minute, or worse, after Mass has already begun!

Please always dress as though you will be serving, even if you are not scheduled. When you come to church, let the Lead know you're there just in case you might be needed. No matter how "laid back" Dana Point may be, we can all set a good example of dressing. Nice jeans are OK, shorts are not; just use your best judgment!

During the Sign of Peace, make your way to the center aisle. Feel free to use a little hand gel from the dispensers near the Font. Try to make sure the ministers assigned upstairs are toward the front of the line, so they can get to their places a little quicker.

When people come up with their arms crossed, please remember that you should only extend your hand (don't touch their hair, it's not hygienic), and say "May God bless you." Don't trace the sign of the cross, don't say "Father, Son, Holy Spirit." Only the clergy can bless, so please don't look like you're blessing them, but rather praying that God will bless them!

When your line is done, look around and see if any other minister might need some help, or might need more Eucharist. Don't "dump" the Hosts from one Ciborium to another: transfer them by hand.

Only certain ministers will be assigned to serve those who cannot come forward for Communion: if you were not so designated, feel free to continue to your station knowing that someone else has been assigned. Try not to give Communion to people who are not in any line but standing around the back; if they approach you, kindly tell them you are on your way to your position and someone else will assist them.

After Communion, go to the Sacristy. If you have a Chalice, you may consume what remains, or ask others to assist. Then place the chalice on the counter, remove your cross and return to your seat. If you have a Ciborium, just put it down, take off your cross, and go back to your seat. We need to keep the noise and confusion down in the Sacristy, and it is not the place for conversation: you are handling the Body and Blood of Christ!

If you have been asked to help purify the Vessels, please keep in mind that you need to also be part of the community: at some point you need to return to the church and participate in the final prayer, the announcements, the final blessing and the dismissal. Then you can return to the Sacristy and continue with the care of the Vessels.

You don't need to use a lot of water for the first purification: just a little water, swirled around inside each cup and bowl, transferred from one to the next, until it's all in one Cup for the priest/deacon to consume. You don't need to wait in the Sacristy until the priest comes back: just put a purificator over the top of the Cup so the priest knows which one to deal with.

I realize this may seem like a lot of details, maybe too many! But it's when we do that small things well that people see our faith in action, that we really believe the Eucharist IS the Body and Blood of Christ! Your attention to detail, your dress, your manner, helps foster faith in others! On behalf of the priests and deacons, thank you for committing to this ministry.

Fr. Chris Heath