



From the desk of *Father Rich Yanos*

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the chalice, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
--- 1 Cor 11:26

The gift of the Eucharist and the celebration of the sacrificial banquet always include the offering of bread and wine. It has always been essential to the celebration of the Sacrament that the priest offering the Mass receives both the Sacred Body and Precious Blood. The practice of the early Church was to offer the laity communion under the forms of the Body and Blood of Christ as well.

Although the Eastern Churches continued to widely offer communion under both kinds (mainly through dipping the Host into the Precious Blood in what is called "intinction"), this practice disappeared in the West.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Since Christ is sacramentally present under each of the species, communion under the species of bread alone makes it possible to receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace. For pastoral reasons this manner of receiving communion has been legitimately established as the most common form in the Latin rite" (CCC, No. 1390)

Over time and with changed circumstances the Church revisited the great value of offering Communion under both kinds to the faithful. The Catechism continues, "But 'the sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since in that form the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly'" (CCC, No. 1390). The Church reintroduced this possibility in "*Sacrosanctum Concilium*" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 55). In the United States, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops gave permission to distribute the Eucharist under both kinds during weekday Masses in 1970, and this was extended to Sundays in 1978. With the third edition of the Roman Missal, communion under both kinds continues to be encouraged:

"Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds. For in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident and clearer expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal Covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord, as also the connection between the Eucharistic banquet and the heavenly banquet in the Kingdom of the Father." The General Instruction further states that "at the same time the faithful should be instructed to participate more readily in this sacred rite, by which the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is made more fully evident" (GIRM, 281; Norms, 20).

There have been some in our parish community who have asked if we are going to begin offering Holy Communion under the forms of both species of the Body and Blood of Christ. The answer is yes! Our plan is to begin the distribution of Christ's Precious Blood from the cup on Divine Mercy Sunday. This is the week after Easter. I realize that not everyone at this time will chose this option of receiving Holy Communion for a variety of reasons, however, there are many who do wish to avail themselves of receiving from


the cup. For this reason, we will begin with two cup stations at every weekend Mass. They will be located off the center aisles of each of our churches. This means that if you desire to avail yourself of receiving from the cup you should sit in the pews on either side of the center/main aisles of our churches. Then, after you receive Communion from the host minister, you would simply continue to the cup minister before returning to your seat. We will monitor the numbers of those wishing to receive from the cup. If we see the need to increase cup ministers, we will gladly do so.

In the next couple of months our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be gathering together to go over the new procedures of the distribution of the cup at communion time in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday.

For those who may be wondering why you will not be seeing Fr. Greg Rom in the upcoming weeks, it is because he will be serving at St. Patrick Parish in Dwight and at St. Paul Parish in Odell in the Peoria Diocese from January 2 through February 8. This is so that their pastor can go home to visit his 94-year-old mother and family in Uganda. We will truly miss him and the assistance he provides for our parish community.

Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Fr. Rich Yanos



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher— "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a