

DIRECTIVE ON BREAD FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

October 26, 2007

To: The English Sector Bishops of the Latin Church in Canada and Bishops of bilingual dioceses in the French Sector of the Latin Church

Dear Brother Bishops:

As President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, I have received a letter from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments informing of reports it has received which claim that the English Sector Episcopal Commission for Liturgy has given approval to the practice of adding ingredients, including honey and salt, to the bread used for the Eucharist.

The *Code of Canon Law* prescribes that **A**the bread must be wheaten only and recently made, so that there is no danger of corruption@ (canon 924).

The April 23, 2004 Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has further specified the meaning of this law for the Latin Church:

The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made so that there is no danger of decomposition. It follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or it if is mixed with another substance difference from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament. It is a grave abuse to introduce other substances, such as fruit or sugar or honey, into the bread for confecting the Eucharist. Hosts should obviously be made by those who are not only distinguished by their integrity, but also skilled in making them and furnished with suitable tools (no. 48).

It is possible that the use of illicit recipes may have stemmed at least in part from an article published in the *National Bulletin on Liturgy* in 1979 (volume 69), an article which suggested two such recipes for consideration. It is clear that these recipes are no longer acceptable. All bread for use in the Eucharist must be conform to the strict conditions stipulated in *Redemptionis Sacramentum*.

I would kindly ask that you advise the clergy and lay faithful of your diocese of this matter, and thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

+ V. James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg
President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops