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DIRECTIVE ON COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

June 19, 2000

To: All pastoral teams in the Diocese of London

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Over the past few years, we have been re-introducing the practice of reception of Holy Communion under both species in the parishes. Since then, one question which continues to come to the fore is the practice of **A**intinction@ **C** the dipping of the sacred host in the Precious Blood.

This practice has been discouraged by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and is definitely discouraged in the parishes of the Diocese of London. The reason why intinction is discouraged is because it fails to effectively communicate the sign of value of the Eucharist. The sacred species of bread and wine are signs, and symbols in the sacrament of Holy Communion. They are efficacious signs, which through the power of the Holy Spirit, truly make Jesus present. To respond to those signs we should eat and drink and not take and dunk. Intinction also increases the risk that drops of the Precious Blood will fall on the floor before the wet host is received in the mouth.

It is my hope that this will be helpful in catechizing the faithful when the issue of intinction is raised.

In Christ,

Most Rev. John Michael Sherlock
Bishop of London
