

GUIDELINES FOR ALTAR LINEN CARE MINISTRY ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE ROLE OF THE ALTAR LINEN CARE MINISTRY:

With deep love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist, the Altar Linen Care Ministry cares for the sacred linens. This ministry is made up of a team who, behind the scenes in their own homes, reverently launder and care for the purificators and corporals used on the altar at Mass.

REQUIREMENTS:

- To be trained in the correct methods for proper care and handling for these special linens which contain the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember with whom you are working.
- To care for the linens on the agreed upon schedule, and to obtain a trained alternate if you are unable to do so on your assigned day.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAUNDERING

- After Mass and waiting until the Sacristy is no longer occupied with the Priest or Deacons, retrieve linens from special laundry basket in Sacristy for these items.

SEPARATE AND PRESOAK PURIFICATORS AND CORPORALS

- Preference is to first separate the hand towels and wash cloths from the purificators and corporals. The hand towels and washcloths can be set aside until you've finished the next two steps.
- The linens need to be presoaked to allow all crumbs and remnants of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ to dissolve into the water. During the presoak and removal of the linens from the presoak water, you need to be very careful not to spill or splash this water around, because it contains the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Because this is the True Presence of Christ this water must be handled carefully and disposed of properly. **DO NOT** allow this water to spill, splash around or run down any household drain!
- Place the purificators and corporals together in your container to presoak. Fill the container with water, warm or cold, whichever you prefer. Allow the linens to soak for at least **ten minutes**. The purple stains will disappear if the linens are allowed to soak for 90 minutes or more. If you aren't able to allow them to soak for this long, you can remove the purple stains in a later step. After the presoak, remove and wring as much water as possible out of each linen, being very careful to let the water fall back into the container, not run down a drain. Place the linens into another container. After all of the linens have been removed from the water, this water **must** be taken and poured out onto the ground outside. Regardless of rain, snow, ice or other weather, this water **must** be poured out onto the ground outside.
- You do not have to be overly scrupulous about the drops of water that will remain in the container or the small amount of water that remains in each of the linens. Once the Precious Body and Blood of Christ has dissolved into the water and you have taken good care to wring each linen and discard the larger volume of water, your conscience may be clear as to how you might handle the small amounts of water that remain.

PRETREAT STAINS ON EACH OF THE PURIFICATORS & CORPORALS

- After presoaking, each of the purificators must be examined, by holding it up to good light to look for lipstick or other stains. If there are no stains, the linen may be set aside.
- For this step, place the linens and corporals in one side of sink and place each in the other side after it has been examined. If you find stains, apply Shout or Borax to the stain and rub it in. Use a small toothbrush that is exclusive for this task. The corporals should also be examined for any stains or soil. If any of the purificators or corporals still show purple stains or dark areas from the Precious Blood at this point, you may soak them again in Oxy Clean for one hour. Only as a last resort would you use diluted bleach. This water can be allowed to run down the drain of your sink. The first presoak is important. After that, you are simply working with laundry that you can handle as you do any of your own laundry.

LAUNDERING THE LINENS AND TOWELS

- Once you have completed the presoak and put Shout onto any stains, the purificators and corporals can be combined with the hand towels or wash cloths. All of the laundry can then be washed in your washing machine, just as you would do your own laundry, using warm or cold water.
- At the end of the wash cycle, the hand towels, dish cloths and towels may all be placed into the dryer. The purificators and corporals may be taken directly from the washer to be ironed while still damp. After drying, the wash cloths are folded in thirds.

IRONING PURIFICATORS AND CORPORALS

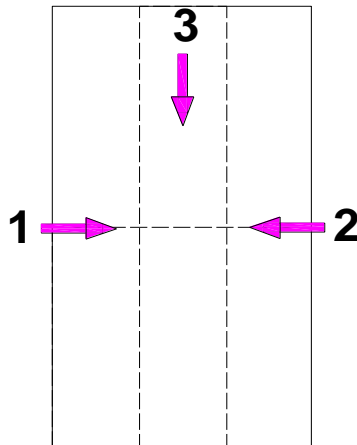
Initial placement of purificators and corporals on the ironing board

- Looking at the edge of the purificator, you will see the stitched hem. Place the purificator flat onto the ironing board so that the hem is visible on top of the fabric, face down.
- When the purificator is folded, the hem will be hidden on the inside.
- Looking at the edge of the corporal, place it flat on the ironing board so the seam is hidden below the fabric, face up. When the corporal is folded, it will appear to be inside out, with the hem visible on the outside.
- When the corporal is unfolded again on the altar, the hem will be hidden below the fabric of the corporal as it lies on the altar.

Ironing and Folding Purificators

- Place the purificator flat onto the ironing board, **face down**. Iron out all of the wrinkles and creases. The moisture from washing will provide steam and make this step easier than if the purificator were dry.
- More moisture makes ironing more effective. The purificators may also lose moisture as they wait to be ironed. They will iron more easily if you rewet them.
- Once the purificator is ironed flat, fold opposite edges inward lengthwise, folding the linen into equal thirds. Try to fold so that each edge lines up with the fold that you are making
- Folding lengthwise into even thirds. Then folding in half. When done, all of the hems should be hidden inside the folds.

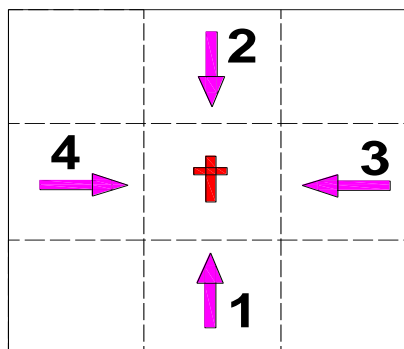
Purificator - Full Open
(With sewed seams facing up)



Ironing and Folding Corporals

- Place the corporal flat onto the ironing board, **face up**. Iron out all of the wrinkles and creases. as with the purificators, moisture from washing will provide steam and make this step easier than if the corporal were dry. Rewet as needed. Once the corporal is wrinkle free, fold it lengthwise in thirds. Try to fold so that each edge lines up with the fold that you are making. Fold the corporal again into equal thirds, neatly aligning the edges with creases as you did with the previous folds. Note that the corporal is folded into equal thirds, twice. This creates nine squares when the corporal is unfolded. Purificators have only six squares when unfolded.

Corporal - Full Open
(With sewed seams facing down)



Questions may be directed to:

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