**Model SOP
Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound**

**General**

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound is a high responsibility ministry. All ministers must meet the standards for high responsibility ministry, including the submission of an application and screening that includes a criminal history check.

The Ministry is also a specialized ministry that requires education both in the general Code of Conduct of the Diocese of Tucson and the specific prescriptions for ministry that include this SOP. Educational updates are encouraged annually, but must be completed no less than once every three years.

**Presentation**

The authority to visit the home of a person for the purpose of sharing the Body of Christ is a privileged role. It should be undertaken with a clear understanding of the responsibility and the risk associated with that role.

Dress and manner appropriate to the role is an important aspect. Dress may be casual but should be both modest and becoming.

**Visits**

The time of visits should be mutually acceptable, but never at odd hours.

Eucharistic Ministers are to work in pairs. It is never advisable to be in a one-to-one situation with the communicant in his or her home.

**Boundaries**

If necessary and only if invited by the communicant, touch is to be given with discretion and with sensitivity to the comfort of the communicant.

Interpersonal sensitivity extends beyond touch and beyond the communicant.

* Do not move about in the home outside the sight of the communicant, if possible, and never do so except in the company of the accompanying Eucharistic Minister.
* Any gift beyond a token of appreciation is to be graciously refused. The offer of a monetary gift to the parish should be noted and discussed with a responsible family member or a person acting in the role of guardian.
* Do not become enmeshed in the dynamics of the family of the communicant.

Although it is reasonable to provide limited assistance to the communicant with tasks in the home, it is not the role of the Eucharistic Minister to become involved in significant labor; make the need known to the ministry leader or to the Pastor so that appropriate help can be arranged.

In the course of carrying out any minor task, honor the limitation noted above; that is, avoid moving about in the home outside and sight of the communicant or, if necessary, do so in the company of the accompanying Eucharistic Minister.

**Reporting**

During the visit, be alert for any indications of problems of self-neglect, hoarding, neglect by caretakers, abuse of any type or financial exploitation. Listen and look for these indications.

* If there is any indication of immediate or imminent danger to the communicant, call law enforcement.
* Otherwise, share concerns with Adult Protective Services (877-SOS-ADULT).
* If there are any indications of abuse or neglect of a child in the home, call law enforcement and Child Protective Services (888-SOS-CHILD).

If at any time you feel yourself to be in danger, leave the home and call 9-1-1 immediately.

**Rite of Communion**

The custody of consecrated Hosts and the Rite of Communion should be as directed by the Pastor. **[Note to user: these directives of the Pastor should be included in the SOP for each particular parish.]**

*Adapted from Sacred Heart Parish (Tucson) and St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Yuma)*