
IV. Procedure for Commissioning Special Ministers of Holy Communion

- A. The pastor is to submit names of persons to the bishop who, as chief liturgist of the diocese, is responsible for choosing and designating individuals as special ministers of Holy Communion.
- B. Only the names of those persons are to be submitted a) who are at least juniors in high school, b) who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, c) who are practicing Catholics, d) who know and live the ecclesial and social meaning of the Eucharist, d) and whose selection will bring honor to the Eucharist.
- C. The names of these persons are not to be submitted until they have been properly instructed for their special ministry, either by the Pastoral Office of Worship or by some other means, which must be specified.
- D. The instruction referred to immediately above must include a) an understanding of the Eucharist and of ministry in the Church, b) an explanation of acceptable forms of Eucharistic piety, c) actual training in the ways of ministering the Holy Communion under both forms, and d) actual training in bringing the Holy Communion to the sick, using only the approved form.
- E. After this instruction has taken place and the names have been submitted to the bishop, he will sign a certificate authorizing the person to be commissioned as a special minister of Holy Communion. The pastor is to keep a record of those commissioned.
- F. Special ministers of Holy Communion at Mass are mandated for a period of three years. This allows for a local review of all communion ministers requesting a renewal. Ministers of Holy Communion may be re-commissioned every three years, without limit, if the following criteria are met:
 - 1) there has been no change in their Catholic, Christian lifestyle;
 - 2) they are physically and emotionally able to carry out this ministry;
 - 3) they are willing to continue in this ministry;
 - 4) they have attended a day of retreat or spiritual renewal before each new commissioning;
 - 5) their names have been submitted to the Office of Worship for renewal.

- G. After the pastor has received the certificate(s), he is to celebrate a rite of commissioning during which he will present the certificate(s) to the special minister(s).
- H. The commissioning must be celebrated according to the norms to be found in the "Rite of Commissioning Special Ministers of Holy Communion." (The Rite of Commissioning may be found in the Book of Blessings, chapter 63, page 795.)
- I. The pastor is to see to it that other opportunities are provided for the parish's special ministers to deepen their own personal prayer life and their appreciation of this ministry.
- J. Once mandated, special ministers of communion at Mass may exercise their ministry anywhere in the Diocese of Crookston, provided the local pastor has given explicit permission.