

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

2 Sections



Laymen, Nuns To Distribute Holy Communion

Lay people and Sisters may soon distribute Holy Communion in parishes where extra help at Communion-time will cut down the prolonged ritual required to give the Eucharist to a large congregation.

Bishop Hogan granted the permission to all pastors of the diocese this week, stipulating that each pastor "is to decide whether he needs to avail himself of this ruling."

The "extraordinary ministers," the Bishop said, may begin to help with Communion after they have been chosen, granted a specific mandate from the Bishop and given their assignment in a public ceremony of installation to be held in each parish.

The Vatican Congregation of the Sacraments granted the permission to this diocese for three years. In recent months many other U.S. Bishops have received similar authorization.

"I am sure that the permission had been requested by other bishops," he said, "for the same reason that I included in my petition: the critical personnel shortage forcing undue prolongation of the liturgy where there are large numbers receiving Communion."

With the advice of the Diocesan Consultors and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission the Bishop set down guidelines for the implementation of the decree:

- A Sunday homily shall instruct the parish on the reasons for the new role and the criteria for choosing the people who will assist.

- Selection of the people should include laymen, laywomen and Sisters wherever

this is practical. The pastor is urged to discuss the matter of nominees with his parish council or other counsellors.

- Candidates should be chosen from those "respected in the community for their Eucharistic devotion."

- The names of the nominees ("a reasonable number") shall be submitted to the Bishop for appointment.

- The appointees, after instruction, shall be given their assignment in a public ceremony in the parish. A more solemn ceremony will be held in the Fall in Rochester, Elmira and Auburn areas with the Bishop officiating.

- For the time being, the "suitable vestment" to be worn while distributing the Eucharist shall be alb and cincture for men and choir robes for women.

The method of receiving Communion in the mouth from the hand of an ordained priest or deacon has had the legal force of custom for at least 1,100 years.

In 1968 Pope Paul secretly surveyed the bishops of the world, asking their opinion on changing the customary manner of distributing. A 2:1 majority favored retention of the customary manner.

On May 29, 1969 the Pope decreed that the traditional practices be observed but said that bishops in specific countries could propose other arrangements. Today a dozen nations have received authorization to introduce Communion in the hand and many more have adopted the ministry of the laymen to assist the parish priest.

« I am the Bread of Life.
If you eat this Bread
you will live forever. »

School - Society Survey Reveals Parental Attitudes

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Father's Day

For Father's Day June 21, our gift to the man who has everything is an account of customs far outside the pale of the American Way. To find out how Father is faring in remote corners of the non-Western world, see page 2B.

New Assignments For Area Priests

Changes affecting 44 priests were announced today by the diocesan Pastoral Office, effective Thursday, June 25.

Five priests are retiring, 11 have been appointed to special assignments, 14 pastorate changes have been announced and 12 assistant pastor appointments have been made.

Pastors retiring are Msgr. Edward K. Ball and Fathers William J. Deveraux, Henry C. Manley, William J. Riefer and Ladislaus Szczepanski.

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