

Vatican rules on pouring of wine

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops have received a Vatican ruling that extraordinary eucharistic ministers may pour consecrated wine into chalices for Communion.

They may seek a U.S. exception allowing those ministers to help purify sacred vessels after Communion when new church liturgy laws take effect.

The bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy has urged diocesan worship offices and pastors to be patient and not rush prematurely into pending liturgy changes.

"My strong advice to anyone is not to change the present practice until such time" as the new law takes effect and its

interpretation is made clear, said Father James P. Moroney, executive director of the secretariat.

The Vatican document under which the changes are to be made, the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal, does not yet have an official date to take effect. When it is implemented, it will replace the general instruction issued in 1975.

Among provisions in the new document that have caused concern in the United States and some other parts of the world are restrictions on the role of extraordinary ministers of Communion before and after Communion.

Father Moroney told Catholic News Service in October that publication of the new Roman Missal itself, originally ex-

pected earlier this year, has been pushed back — probably to next February.

Although the Vatican released the revised general instruction in July, it is intended to accompany the revised missal. It will not take effect until the missal is published.

On the actions surrounding Communion, the new instruction specifies that:

- "The breaking of the eucharistic bread ... is reserved to the priest and the deacon."

- "The vessels are cleansed by the priest or by the deacon or (formally instituted) acolyte after Communion or after Mass, if possible at a side table. Water alone or wine and water together are used for the cleansing of the chalice, then drunk by

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Sisters of St. Joseph turn 350

Sister Joan Sobala, SSJ, congregational vice president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, recalled that her family wasn't exactly keen on her joining the women's religious order in the late 1950s.

"They thought I was bright, vivacious, and had a great future," Sister Sobala said of her family, who eventually supported her decision to join. "They thought all of these things would be thwarted in that I would forever be behind these walls."

The walls of her vocation, however, turned out to be fairly porous, she noted, pointing out that she's worked in several different places both inside and outside the Diocese of Rochester as a Sister of St. Joseph. She added that the order she joined in 1958 boasts well-educated women who, far from stifling her intellectual growth, have only encouraged it. More importantly, her fellow women religious have aided her to fulfill her desire for spiritual growth, she said.

"I belong here, it's home," she said during an interview in the SSJ Motherhouse on East Avenue in Pittsford. "These are my sisters, and we are a community that points to something more in life than meets the eye."

Happy anniversary

Sister Sobala and her fellow nuns in the Sisters of St. Joseph are marking the 350th anniversary of their order's founding all over the world this month. (A schedule of events is on Page 14). From the first six nuns who began the order in France Oct. 15, 1650, the St. Joseph sisters have grown to number 30,000 throughout the world, and claim 395 members in the Diocese of Rochester alone. They can be found primarily in the fields of education, church work, health care, congregational and social work ministries, but they are also represented in a number of other ministries as well from neighborhood economic development to ecumenism.

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