

Distribution of Holy Communion

by Lay Eucharistic Ministers (or PLEM)

to persons who are ill or infirm

This form is to be used only immediately after the principal Eucharist on Sunday or other Principal Celebrations. The Eucharistic Visitor should be accompanied by other persons from the congregation.

The Eucharistic Visitor greets the people

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Response And also with you.

Collect of the Day

Gospel of the Day, or some other passage of Scripture appropriate to the occasion.

Comments may be made about the sermon of that day.

Suitable prayers may be offered.

A Confession of Sin may be said

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Minister May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Administration of the Holy Communion

(using one of the authorized words of administration)

Closing Prayer

O gracious God, whose Christ stretched out arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross to embrace all the peoples of the earth: We give you thanks for feeding *N.* our *sister* with the Sacrament of that precious Body and Blood, which is the sign and instrument of our common life, and also for enriching our parish family by *her* sharing with us the food of

our pilgrimage, the foretaste of that heavenly banquet of which we shall partake with all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. *Amen.*

Minister Let us bless the Lord.

Response Thanks be to God.

Suggested Guidelines

- 1.** Eucharistic Visitors must be adult confirmed communicants in good standing, be carefully chosen and trained, and be specially licensed. A candidate is to be recommended by the cleric in charge of the congregation to the Bishop of the diocese to be licensed. "Such special license shall be given only at the request, and upon the recommendation, of, the Member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation in which the Eucharistic Visitor will be serving. The license shall be issued for a period of time not to exceed three years and shall be revocable at any time by the Bishop, or by the Member of the clergy at whose request it was granted." (Title III, Canon 3, Sec. 2)
- 2.** Where a Deacon serves in a congregation, that minister should supervise the work of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers.
- 3.** It is recommended that the person to be ministered to be prayed for specifically in the Prayers of the People by the congregation on that day.
- 4.** The administration of the Sacrament to the persons visited should take place immediately after the service in the church. Following the communion of the people, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward and are commended for this ministry with the following or similar words:
In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.
- 5.** A suitable container in which to carry the two vessels for the bread and wine, corporals, and purificators is to be supplied. The container is to be returned immediately to the parish along with any unconsumed elements.
- 6.** The people to whom Holy Communion is to be administered are to be notified in advance and the time of the appointment clearly set.
- 7.** Only the order of the rite entitled "*Distribution of Holy Communion by Eucharistic Ministers*" is to be used.