



Lay Administrants of Holy Communion

The following recommendations were made by the House of Bishops and adopted as practice for the Diocese of Huron.

Authority may be given by the bishop to a lay person to assist in the administration of the paten and/or chalice at the holy communion, provided that:

1. The person authorized is a communicant in good standing who is generally acceptable to the Rector/Priest in Charge and the congregation.
2. The Bishop's Office is notified in writing by the Rector/Priest in Charge of the names of Lay Administrants acting in this capacity.
3. The authority is granted either for a service or services on a specified date or for a specified period and a specified parish.
4. The announcement of such permission is clearly made to the congregation either orally or in writing.

Within the foregoing general provisions, the bishop may make such other regulations as he/she may deem desirable and necessary in the exercise of lay ministry in administration of the holy communion.

Guidelines:

In giving consideration to the necessity and desirability of having laypersons assist in the administration of holy communion, the feelings of the congregation must be considered. There are no doubt some congregations where, at the present time, it would not be advisable and this is why 1. and 2. are important and must be enforced.

The lay administrant of holy communion should be chosen by the Rector/Priest in Charge with due consideration to their responsibilities and membership in the church. Lay administrants may wear street clothes as they perform their duties, since this will be a powerful symbol of the ministry of the laity.

Permission may be granted either for special occasions, such as Christmas or Easter, or for regular major celebrations, but in no case shall the permission exceed three years in duration without review. After this period has expired the situation will be reviewed and application for renewal of permission again made in writing. It must also be understood that such permission is terminated by the departure of the Rector/Priest in Charge from the parish.