

Eucharistic Ministers

Beginning the weekend of January 19 and 20, 2008, we ask that Eucharistic Ministers:

- ❖ Share the sign of peace in the pews and as you line up in the aisles. **Please do not share a sign of peace with each other when you have gathered with the priest in the sanctuary. The sign of peace ritual has passed. We have sung the fraction rite (*Lamb of God*) and now we are preparing to receive the Eucharist. It is inappropriate for the sign of peace to be done at this time as the community has already moved beyond that in the worship service. It sends mixed signals to the congregation.**
- ❖ **The consecrated hosts will no longer be kept on the vesting case in the sacristy. It seems to diminish the respect and reverence that should be given to the Blessed Sacrament while people are walking back and forth, conversing, or simply ignoring Jesus' presence in the sacrament on the "table top". I don't expect you to behave differently when you have much to do because the Blessed Sacrament is there. We will now place the Sacrament in a tabernacle in the ante-room to the left of the sacristy. The reserved Eucharist will be brought from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to the sacristy tabernacle BEFORE the Saturday Vigil Mass begins. The Blessed Sacrament will be kept in that tabernacle until AFTER the 5:30 Mass Sunday evening. Eventually, an electric candle will be placed there to remind us of the presence of Jesus. During the week the Blessed Sacrament will remain in the chapel tabernacle.**
- ❖ Bread 1 (B1 minister) at the sign of peace: instead of lining up in the aisle with the bread ministers, you will proceed immediately to the sacristy through either the lower door or the upper door to the left of the altar on the Camino Pablo side. Please bring the Blessed Sacrament (consecrated hosts) out from the sacristy tabernacle. B1 should be ready to enter the sanctuary through the sacristy door at the SAME TIME the other Eucharistic ministers are congregating at the altar AFTER the priest's communion. The rest of the procedure should continue as follows.
- ❖ How we receive the Body and Blood of Christ sends innumerable messages to the entire congregation about what we are doing. If we are careless or sloppy, it shows. If we really believe in what we are doing, it is conveyed—belief without words! If there is a mistake on the part of the priest or of those lined up, RELAX. Jesus can take care of himself. It is not so much the finished product as where our hearts are when we gather. I will remember that as well.
- ❖ Finally, I would welcome all of you to begin to go up and down the steps of the sanctuary by using the hand railings on the steps. The Diocese has asked all churches to install them as is the code. Even if you do not think you need to use them, please walk in an orderly way down the steps using the railings. It also enables those who would feel more comfortable having a railing to hold on to not to feel so singled out. I will do the same. It might take time to get used to this, but it is important.
- ❖ Thank you over and over again for sharing the Eucharist in a very powerful and reverent manner.

Father Wayne