



Training Points for Readers

Diocese of Bridgeport

To be implemented June 1, 2019

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1. Attire for Readers is to be neat, clean, modest and with some degree of formality. The following are not allowed: shorts, beach attire, athletic attire (yoga pants and sweatpants), jeans, and t-shirts. Sneakers are only allowed for those who wear them for medical or safety reasons.
 2. Readers should prepare the reading beforehand so that they will not be surprised by names and phrasings. The USCCB website (usccb.org) provides readings for every day of the year, and lets you hear the reading.
 3. In the case of several options for Masses, the Reader should consult the celebrant before Mass begins.
 4. The Reader approaches the altar after the opening prayer, bows to the altar, and proceeds to the ambo.
 5. The Reader adds nothing to the introduction or the conclusion of the reading. The reading begins with "A reading from the book of..." or "A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the..." The reading concludes with the words, "The Word of the Lord."
 6. During the sung responsorial psalm, the Reader may sit in the sanctuary.
 7. Readers should speak slowly, crisply and clearly when proclaiming the readings. Also, speak loudly so that the microphone picks you up well.
 8. The Reader should return to the ambo during the recitation of the creed to lead the intercessory prayers (unless a deacon is present). These should be reviewed for names, but also so that they can be read with a sense of prayer and petition. The reader comes up during the Creed at the words, "I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."
 9. When the Alleluia is not sung, we ask that it be omitted rather than recited.



Training Points for EMHCs

Diocese of Bridgeport

To be implemented June 1, 2019

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1. Priests and deacons are ordinary ministers of Holy Communion. EMHCs are extraordinary ministers. Simply put, EMHCs are used for the distribution of Holy Communion when there are not enough ordinary ministers present.
 2. Attire for EMHCs is to be neat, clean, modest and with some degree of formality. The following are not allowed: shorts, beach attire, athletic attire (yoga pants and sweatpants), jeans, and t-shirts. Sneakers are only allowed for those who wear them for medical or safety reasons.
 3. Please wash your hands before Mass. Handwashing is the best way to prevent the spread of disease. For those who wish to use sanitizer, it is provided for you.
 4. Because of the connection between that which happens at the altar, that which is reserved in the Tabernacle, and that which occurred on Calvary, only the ordinary minister is to go to the Tabernacle during Mass.
 5. EMHCs should approach the altar after the priest receives Holy Communion from the chalice rather than at the Lamb of God. Bow at the foot of the altar and come up, just a little later than you are used to doing now. If there is no deacon at Mass, the EME in the deacon position will approach the priest to receive communion first (under both species) and then assist with the distribution of the chalice to the other EMHCs. All EMHCs receive the host from the priest. The chalice is offered to you by an EME or the deacon.
 6. For the sake of order, please sit on the side of the church which corresponds to your position, close to the altar and near the end of the pew. Also, when the priest is behind the altar, please refrain from crossing behind him.
 7. A priest or deacon will hand you your ciborium or chalice. We will discontinue the practice of EMHCs taking vessels off of the altar themselves for distribution. The only exception will be for the small ciborium for those who receive low-gluten hosts.



8. So that the priest or deacon will know which vessel to hand you for the distribution of Holy Communion, we have included a sign to indicate your position. If you are distributing a chalice, please place your right hand over your heart after receiving communion so the priest will know what vessel to give you.
9. Regarding the choice of position for EMHCs:
 - If you are not on the schedule, please ask the Coordinator before taking a position.
 - If you are available as a substitute, please ask the Coordinator about where you might be needed.
 - If you are on the schedule, please arrive 10 minutes before Mass
 - Please rotate positions regularly so that all are familiar with all positions (including host and cup).
10. After the distribution of Communion, all vessels return to the choir side of the main altar for consolidation, consumption and purification by the priest. There will be a corporal on that side of the altar upon which sacred vessels are to be placed. EMHCs will no longer consume what remains in the chalices. The reason for this change is that only the priest can self-communicate. That means that neither a deacon nor a member of the faithful can give Holy Communion to themselves. When we consume what remains in the chalices, we are self-communicating. So we will change that practice. We will also be pouring less in the chalices to curtail the issue. If the priest asks you to consume what remains in the chalice to assist him, he will offer it to you in the normal way ("The Blood of Christ").
11. For purification of vessels, the priest or deacon will purify at the main altar. This will be the norm followed at all Masses.
12. Blessings: When someone (usually a child) comes forward and is not receiving Holy Communion, there seem to be many different ways of responding to this. From now on there will be one way, used by priests, deacons and EMHCs. Without holding a host, without gesture, and without extending hands or touching the other person, we will say the following words, "May you receive the Lord Jesus in your heart." Also, please distribute Communion to the adult first and offer the words after you have distributed the host.



13. Bringing Communion to the sick: We will no longer be filling pyxes during the distribution of Communion. When you are in the Communion line that moment is for you to receive the graces that God has for you. Those who are bringing Communion to the sick should come at the end of Mass to receive hosts for the sick. A log of these visits should be kept in the back sacristy.
14. When distributing Communion, say "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ." Don't add names or anything else.
15. Exercise care when walking with the Eucharist. When bringing the host or chalice to someone who cannot come forward, it is customary to use your hand or purificator to cover the Eucharist out of respect.
16. Of course, EMHCs should be certain that all who receive Holy Communion receive it immediately.
17. Holy Communion is not to be given in the hand when the person is wearing gloves or when hands are covered in cloth. We will need to inform our people about this practice.
18. Because we believe that even the particles of the Host are sacred, we will have an ablution cup and purificator available for the purification of your fingers. One will be on the corner of the main altar and one will be by the tabernacle.
19. If a host falls to the floor, please pick it up and bring it to the altar, placing it on the priest's paten. He will consume it when he purifies the vessels.
20. After Purification of vessels, they are washed with water and soap in the sacristy.
21. Reminders: If you are sick, please don't serve as EMHC that week.