

BULLETIN – JANUARY 8

New Year's resolutions on the Eucharist. At our Priests' Day on Tuesday, December 13, Bishop Walkowiak reflected with us on how we must all take greater care in the distribution of Holy Communion, both in church and in bringing the Sacrament to the sick. I am delighted to share with you several points he made, and further delighted to implement them immediately.

Here at SS. Peter & Paul, I am happy to report, we are doing many things correctly, according to the Bishop's review of Eucharistic liturgical norms. The things we must attend to are these:

1) If they do not already have one of their own, or if they have not yet borrowed one from the parish, those who are taking Communion to the sick or homebound should place the Sacred Host(s) in a *pyx*, the small vessel especially designed for that purpose. Carrying the Body of Christ in a tissue or a cloth or even a rosary case is unacceptable.

2) Hosts for the sick or homebound should not be requested in the Communion procession. Rather, those who will be bringing Communion to others in need should reverently receive Communion themselves, then go up to one side or another of the sanctuary and wait until Communion for the congregation is finished, holding the pyx so the priest knows they are to be given one or more Hosts. Obviously, their manner of dress should be suitable for the sanctuary, and should be such that they do not draw undue and unfavorable attention to themselves. Please plan ahead. Bringing Communion should not be an afterthought.

3) When all distributors have returned to the sanctuary, the priest will go around the sanctuary, placing the requested number of Hosts in each pyx. If there is no congregational or choral singing at that point, the priest may add a brief prayer of "commissioning" those who are entrusted with the Blessed Sacrament for the sick and homebound, after which they may return to their pews until the end of Mass.

4) It is most appropriate to place the pyx with the Host(s) in a burse that can be hung around the neck, rather than placing the pyx in a pocket or purse.

5) There should be as little delay as possible in bringing Communion to the sick or homebound. This generally means that Communion should be brought directly after Mass to the intended destination(s). The Sacred Hosts should not be carried or driven about town on errands or shopping trips. On weekdays when the parish office is open, if delay is necessary due to a schedule of doctors' visits or other reasons affecting the availability of the homebound, it is preferable to bring the pyx with the Host(s) to the convent chapel to be kept in the tabernacle until the Communion visit(s) can be made.

6) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THE SACRED HOSTS ***EVER*** TO BE KEPT IN A PRIVATE HOME, AND CERTAINLY NEVER OVERNIGHT. Under no conditions may anyone, for instance, bring home seven Hosts so that a homebound family member can receive Holy Communion each day during the week. Even a priest who wishes to have a private chapel in his home must obtain the special permission of the Bishop to reserve the Blessed Sacrament outside a church, and in that case the Sacrament must be reserved in a secure tabernacle.

7) In the event that Communion is brought but cannot be received due to unexpected absence, further illness, or some other reason, the Blessed Sacrament is either to be returned to the church or convent chapel if possible, or otherwise reverently

consumed immediately by the one bringing Communion. The same procedure applies if there are obvious pieces or particles of the Host(s) which cannot be consumed by the recipient (for instance, when the nature of the illness permits swallowing only a small fraction of the Host).

8) Any unusual circumstances encountered in bringing Holy Communion outside of Mass should be reported at once to the pastor or to the parish office.

9) Remember, if you are at Mass and intending to receive Holy Communion but are physically unable to participate in the Communion procession, you may simply remain in place, raise your hand, and the priest or a distributor will bring Communion to you. If somehow you are overlooked, don't hesitate to have someone come up front and let us know. We shall gladly accommodate you.

10) We always have gluten-free Hosts consecrated and available in the tabernacle. Those with a gluten allergy may also choose to receive the Precious Blood from the chalice. I don't say "the Precious Blood *only*," because anyone who receives Communion under either or both forms receives the entire Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Christ is present whole and entire under both forms.

The Bishop was very clear about his concern that we not neglect to show proper respect and due reverence for the Body and Blood of Christ, the greatest of the Mysteries of our faith.

Fall Festival news. Our Fall Festival on the last Sunday of September was a wonderful event, both socially and financially. So many contributed so many hours of work to help everyone have a very enjoyable time and a splendid meal. It takes time to tie up all the loose ends and pay all the bills that come due after the occasion, but we can finally report that our Festival netted us a monetary profit of **\$14,058.30**. That's in addition to the "profit" and benefit of lots of good will and good example of community building and "fun-raising" which we provide in the midst of our very missionary neighborhood. Thank you again to our chairs, Dennis and Lisa Vainavicz, and to all who assisted in any way to make the day a great success.

At WHAT age? Sad but true, a recent nationwide survey of young adults who have left the Catholic Church revealed that many did so in attitude if not in fact between the ages of 10 and 13! This means that likely precisely at the time that these young men and women were preparing for and celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, they were present in body but absent in mind and heart from the very Church in whose midst they were standing and professing their faith! How often do you discuss the faith, the Mass and the sacraments, our friendship with Christ our Lord and Savior, our membership in the Church, and similar matters with your children and grandchildren? Are they as fluent in their faith as they are about the Internet? Do they ever read or watch or listen to ANYTHING about Christ or the Church? Can they explain topics of faith? Do they know their way around the Bible and the Catechism as well as they know their way around social media? Or is "Religion" all just another homework assignment? Don't be afraid to check it out, over and over again. If they don't see the Catholic faith as a defining factor in *your* life, you are teaching by example that it's not something that's worth the effort. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: “Whether one traces his Americanisms back three centuries to the Mayflower, or three years to the steerage, is not half so important as whether his Americanism of today is real and genuine. No matter by what various crafts we came here, we are all now in the same boat” (President Calvin Coolidge, 1872-1933, in a speech before the American Legion Convention, Omaha, NE, October 6, 1925).