



## MEMORANDUM

To: Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Leaders, Parishes, and Religious Houses

From: Reverend David J. Cirata

Re: Resumption of Taking Holy Communion to Nursing Homes/Healthcare Facilities  
by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Date: Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin  
5 October 2020

*“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever;  
and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world”.*

-John 6: 51

Please accept my profound and deep thanks to all of you who continue to minister to the People of God entrusted to your care in these challenging days. Together may we care for the Lord’s flock modeling his example of selfless service to all in need.

The memo of 13 August 2020 (*Update on Sunday Obligation Dispensation and Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound*) provided guidelines for an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

On September 24, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine outlined the guidelines for the expansion of public visitation at nursing homes effective October 12, 2020. Accordingly, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may resume taking the Most Blessed Sacrament to residents/patients beginning on October 12, 2020 using the following parameters:

- The request for a visit is made by the resident/patient.
- The EMHC is comfortable with visiting the resident/patient.
- EMHC’s need to confirm with the nursing home/healthcare facility that they will be permitted inside.
- Masks are to be worn at all times by the EMHC.
- EMHC’s may make only one visit returning home immediately afterward in order to do what is necessary, especially if the person visited has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to someone who tested positive: bathe/shower, change clothes and sanitize any

items that were used during the visit. An EMHC may not make multiple visits whether at the same, or different, location.

It is important to remind all EMHC's of the proper and reverential manner in which to transport the Most Holy Eucharist:

- The Sacred Host is to be placed in a pyx that is then placed inside a burse that is worn around the neck. A pyx is not to be carried in pockets/purses or placed in a glove compartment, cup holder, or anywhere else inside a vehicle.
- The pyx is to be purified after its use by a Priest, Deacon, or instituted Acolyte.
- The EMHC is to follow the liturgical norms and rites set forth by the Church regarding the manner in which Holy Communion is distributed to the sick and homebound.
- The EMHC is to wear attire that reflects the reverence due to the Most Holy Eucharist.
- Pastors/Administrators/Pastoral Leaders are to ensure that all of these necessary procedures are carried out with proper decorum and dignity.

As we approach our Diocesan Feast Day on October 7, let us implore Our Lady to intercede to the Lord on our behalf that he may deliver us from all evil, disease and anything that separates us from him and from one another.

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!