

## PREFACE

We want to thank you for your prayerful consideration and acceptance to serve your priest and parish, a role that will bring you closer to Christ and closer to others because of it.

It is an exciting time for Catholics at Holy Cross. We continue to grow as a parish in numbers and opportunities to serve. With fewer priests and many more communicants, Pope Paul VI approved extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Priests, Bishops, and Deacons are ordinary ministers of the Eucharist. In the 90's, Bishop William G. Curlin asked the priests in the diocese to involve more parishioners in the mass. We have worked toward this and now you see two lectors at mass and families bringing the gifts up to the altar often.

Bishop Jugis, with his Decree of Promulgation in March of 2005, passed on the new Liturgical Norms that Pope John Paul II had helped prepare. Bishop Jugis stated "The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian Life'...this document provides the framework of our celebration of the Sacred Mysteries and guides us that we may celebrate the Holy Sacrifice in unity and peace..." The norms were presented to insure the worthy and prayerful celebration of Mass, and to ensure reverence for the Eucharist and preserve the unity of the Catholic Church.

With the pastoral needs of Holy Cross, Father Joseph Tustin has asked the Minister Coordinators to assist with seeking additional extraordinary ministers. We look for practical Catholic men, women, and youth who are at least 16. "Able and God fearing persons; those who are deeply spiritual and prudent", according to Pope Paul VI. He goes on as to qualities, ideally, that should be present in these people. "The person approved...must be duly instructed and should distinguish himself or herself by Christian life, faith, morals, striving to be worthy of this great office, cultivating devotion to the Holy Eucharist and acting as an example to others, faithful by piety and reverence for the most holy sacrament of the altar." The new Liturgical Norms ask that those who assist receive both kinds and go to the sacrament of penance regularly.

We all come as sinners, with our faults, and with personal challenges to this duty. But this role gives one an opportunity to reflect on their faith and to grow spiritually; help one in getting through and working at our difficulties. Inner faith is the essential basis for Catholic worship. We look past the printed words of our liturgies and prayers in mass to a deeper reality and understanding. There is as much relevance today as when Christ spoke these words. Faith enables us to recognize the presence of Christ in many ways in our liturgy.

Christians' love and faith in Christ and each other is expressed in these various signs and symbols in the mass. We grow from this continual nourishing of our faith. With prayer we can focus our attention on what is asked of us and how with God's help, become more reverent.

Such an attitude will be reflected in the way we move about the sanctuary, fold our hands, reverentially bow, distribute the blessed host or extend the cup. We should be careful, with natural, but deliberate gestures, not casual. Our reverence will reflect that of our celebrant. Our movements are coordinated so not to distract attention from communion. When new, you will be nervous and worried, you might make a mistake, but with practice and focusing your attention on your movements, you will do well. Christ is with you!

The instructions that follow reflect the configuration of our church and the need for additional stations to serve from. The sanctuary is the raised portion that the altar sits on. The raised platform with the tabernacle is beyond the sanctuary. The parishioners sit in the nave. The directives are specific and cover various situations. Your specific duties are determined by whether you serve the cup or bread-basket. Revisions are made as change dictates.

Vivat Jesus