

COMMUNION OF THE SICK

When the Priest is to administer Holy Communion outside of the Church, he carries the Blessed Sacrament in a pyx suspended over his breast. It is not customary to reserve the Precious Blood and it would be exceedingly dangerous to carry the Blessed Sacrament about in this specie. Thus Communion outside of the Church has been administered in one kind only since the earliest days. The Glorified Christ cannot be divided and is present in the tiniest particle of either species. In receiving the Sacred Host only, the Communicant receives all of our Lord.

Before the Priest arrives, prepare a table with a clean, white cloth, one or two candles, if possible a crucifix or statue, and a glass of water with a teaspoon for the ablution. If possible, the Priest should be met at the door of the house and conducted to the room where Holy Communion is to be administered by someone carrying a lighted candle. In any case, no one should greet the Priest or say anything to him unnecessarily. He does not carry on conversations or respond to greetings when he is bearing the Body of the Lord. If the sick person desires to confess, others must leave the room while the confession is made. If anyone else is to receive Holy Communion with the sick person, the Priest must be notified beforehand.

After the preliminary prayers, the Priest, and all who are to receive Holy Communion, say the General Confession as follows:

ALmighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,

Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest gives the absolution as follows:

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Then the Priest may turn to the Blessed Sacrament and say:

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. R. Amen.

After which the Priest turns and, holding the Sacred Host over the pyx, says:

BEHOLD the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

Then those who are to receive Holy Communion say with him thrice:

LORD, I am not worthy: that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

And the Priest administers Holy Communion, saying:

THE Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy

body and soul unto everlasting life.

Having administered Holy Communion, the Priest cleanses the fingers which have touched the Sacred Host and gives the water of the ablution to the communicant for consumption. Then he proceeds:

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. R. Amen.

Then the Priest gives the blessing.

THE Peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. R. Amen.

In case the Priest has more Communion to administer, he cannot remain to visit but will leave immediately in silence, bearing the Blessed Sacrament again over his breast.



FOR THE DYING

Litany for the Dying

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.