

LAY ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

In keeping with recommendations of the Canadian House of Bishops, the following is a directive for the Diocese of Fredericton regarding administration of the Holy Communion at public services of the Holy Eucharist:

Authority may be given by the Bishop to a lay person to assist in the administration of the chalice at Holy Communion in public worship, provided that:

- i) the person authorized is a communicant in good standing who is generally acceptable to the incumbent and the congregation;
- ii) the request is made in writing to the Bishop by the incumbent following a recommendation by motion of the Parish Corporation;
- iii) the authority is granted either for a specific worship event or on a regular basis for a specified parish;
- iv) the announcement of such permission is clearly made to the congregation following receiving the letter of permission from the Bishop.

Layreaders licensed by the Bishop in the Diocese of Fredericton are not automatically granted permission to administer the Holy Communion. The provisions above apply also to licensed layreaders.

Guidelines:

1. In giving consideration to the necessity and desirability of having laypersons assist in the administration of Holy Communion, the feelings of the congregation must be considered. There are no doubt some congregations where, at the present time, it would not be advisable which makes provisions i and ii necessary.
2. The lay administrator of Holy Communion should be chosen and appropriately trained by the incumbent with due consideration to their responsibilities and membership in the church. Lay administrators may wear street clothes as they perform their duties, since this will be a powerful symbol of the ministry of the laity.
3. Lay persons do not normally administer the paten due to their inability to offer blessing. If lay administration of the paten is desired on a rare occasion, the boundaries of the ministry of the administrator to those not making Communion will be made clear, i.e., prayer may be offered in lieu of blessing or those requesting blessing are to be directed to a priest.
4. Permission may be granted either for special occasions, such as Christmas or Easter, or for regular celebrations, but in no case shall it be seen as on-going and without regular review. It is to be understood that permission must be renewed by a new incumbent in the parish.
5. Permission to administer Reserved Sacrament is not permitted under these provisions.