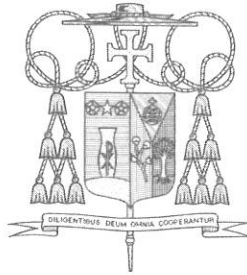


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Policy re Liturgical Ministry Formation Days for all Liturgical Ministers

I have informed Rosalind Sanchez, Director of the Office of Worship, that all parish liturgical ministers (extraordinary ministers of holy communion, lectors, sacristans, ushers, greeters, environment, liturgy committees) are required to attend the Liturgical Ministry Formation Day presented by the Office of Worship for their particular ministry before they begin their ministry, and are to attend every three years for review and update. This formation and training is in addition to their parish training. At the completion of a Liturgical Ministry Formation Day, Certificates of Completion are to be issued for each participant and given to the pastor for their distribution to his parishioners. However, attendance at a Liturgical Ministry Formation Day is not an entitlement to ministry; liturgical ministry in a parish is subject to invitation by the pastor.

With regards to extraordinary ministers of holy communion, after a parishioner has completed the Liturgical Ministry Formation Day for this ministry and in accordance with EUCHARIST guideline II.C.3. of the Pastoral Manual, a mandate from me is to be obtained for each extraordinary minister of holy communion and a commissioning ceremony by the pastor is to take place at Mass for those whom the pastor invites to serve in this ministry before they can begin to minister as extraordinary ministers of holy communion in the parish.

The benefits of the diocesan Liturgical Ministry Formation Day are many. Liturgical ministers experience the broader local church beyond their parish and the gift of the Eucharist as that of the whole Church, learn of the theology, history and roots of their ministries, liturgies and in particular the Mass, are formed more deeply in Scripture, review how their ministry is an integral part of the prayer of the Church, the Mass, reflect on transformation through liturgy, and share experiences with each other. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* tells us that liturgical ministers "exercise a genuine liturgical function" and are to "discharge their office, therefore, with the sincere devotion and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected by God's people[SC29]." ". . .they must all be deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy. . .and they must be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner[SC29§2]." Well-trained and well-informed liturgical ministers make for richer liturgies.

This policy has been in effect since 2005 and I am re-issuing it this day and sending the information to all clergy, deacon candidates, and liturgy directors for their reference. It will be accessible on the Diocese of Beaumont website under the Office of Worship link.

Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.
Bishop of Beaumont

4 September 2014