
MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

TO: PRIESTS AND LITURGICAL LEADERS
FROM: PATRICK GORMAN
SUBJECT: PEOPLE WITH CELIAC DISEASE AND THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
DATE: 21 NOVEMBER 2012

The attached pages are from the October 2012 Newsletter of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. It includes detailed information on access to Holy Communion for people with Celiac Disease.

There are growing numbers of people who cope with Celiac Disease and are not able to ingest wheat products. The Vatican approved the use of low-gluten hosts a decade ago and there now are three sources of low-gluten hosts in the United States. They are listed in the attached Newsletter article.

As our diocese is moving away from regular distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds, special pastoral care and concern should be given to those people who may not even be able to consume the low gluten hosts. Bishop Morlino has expressed his desire that, in these cases, the Precious Blood should be available to them, even if the congregation will not receive under this form. This most likely requires that a separate chalice be consecrated for this purpose, since people who are so sensitive to gluten cannot drink from the priest's chalice (because of the comingling).

There is good information on the website of the Catholic Celiac Society (<http://www.catholicceliacs.org/>). You may wish to encourage parishioners with Celiac Disease to visit their site.

I also would suggest that you periodically inform people (in a newsletter or bulletin, from the pulpit, etc.) that there are options for people with Celiac Disease regarding the reception of Holy Communion.

If I can be of any help, please contact me.

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