

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY OF THE EUCHARIST

1. History

- Paul's church ministries (c57-60 CE):
 - **Romans 12:4-8** ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry in ministering; the teacher, in teaching, ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:27-31** ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
- House-church worship in the late First Century involved a Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of Eucharist (Lk 24—Emmaus Story)
- Essential ministries of the early Christians: witness (*marturia*), proclamation (*kerygma*), teaching (*didaskalo*), worship (*leitourgia*) (Acts 2.42)
- Caesarius of Arles (470-542 CE):

“I ask you, my brothers and sisters, which seems to you of the most value, the Word of God or the body of Christ [in the Eucharist]? If you would reply truly you must say, that the Word of God is no less inferior to the body of Christ. Therefore, the same care that we take in distributing the body of Christ, lest any portion of it should fall from our hands to the ground, we should take when the Word of God is distributed amongst us, lest, whilst we think or speak of other things, any of it should fall from our hearts.”
- St Augustine (354-430 CE) wrote:

“If you are the body of Christ and his members, your mystery has been placed on the Lord's table, you receive your mystery. You reply ‘Amen’ to that which you are, and by replying you consent. For you hear ‘The Body of Christ’, and you reply ‘Amen’. Be a member of the Body of Christ so that your Amen may be true.” (*Sermon 272*)

2. Two principles from *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (1962):

1. Christ's four-fold presence:

“Christ is always present in his Church, especially in its liturgical celebrations. He is present in the Sacrifice of the Mass not only in the person of his minister... but especially in the eucharistic species. By his power he is present in the sacraments so that when anybody baptizes it is really Christ himself who baptizes.²¹ He is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. Lastly, he is present when the Church prays and sings, for he has promised ‘where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them’ (Mt. 18:20).” (#7)

2. Active Participation of all who gather:

“...the Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy, and to which the Christian people, ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people’ (1 Pet. 2:9, 4—5) have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism. In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy the full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit.” (#14)

3. ‘Extraordinary Ministry of the Eucharist

- The “ordinary ministers” are the ordained.
- *diakonia* → ‘speak on behalf of another’ as an appointed ambassador: You are ministering the “Body” of Christ to the “Body of Christ”.
- For the community, not personal, to which one is called.
- Prepare with prayer and minister reverentially with due decorum.
- Personal contact and respect for the other through eyes, words and hands.

4. Ministry within the Liturgical Assembly

- Arrive 15 mins beforehand and prepare spiritually with awareness and reverence.
- Process towards and away from the sanctuary with other ministers.
- Distribute Communion (in whatever form) with respect, reverence and slowly

5. Ministry to the Housebound and Infirm

- Use the suggested format from the parish website:
www.lockleysparish.com/resources
- Have Scripture readings and Mass prayers from previous Sunday at hand.
- Share reflections from the Sunday homily
- Find ways to keep the person connected to the parish (*Grapevine*, update parish office, arranging for the Sacrament of the Anointing, etc..)