

Notes from the Liturgist, Ace Tupasi

Communion Blessings – A MUST READ

For the past four consecutive weekends I've shared with you about the parts of the mass and their meanings. Every time I re-read these articles it always gives me a great meaning to my life. I hope you have the chance to read them, too, and I'm sure those parts and their meanings have also touched your lives.

For this weekend I am going to share with you a message from the Office of the Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Portland in regards to the "Blessings during the Distribution of Holy Communion" dated 11th of February, 2019.

Archbishop Sample understands that the practice of blessings during the distribution of Holy Communion has been a concern to many of you in recent times, especially with the diversity of practices not only between parishes but between ministers in individual parishes.

The Presbyteral Council has discussed this topic over the last year and deliberated over the concerns and issues which surround this practice, understanding that the Church's liturgy does not provide for such a blessing at this time, and yet wanting to offer a pastoral solution which will be uniform across the Archdiocese.

The Archbishop has asked this office to communicate to you the decision of the Presbyteral Council concerning the issue of blessings during the distribution of Holy Communion:

"The solution agreed upon was that when a member of the faithful approaches a minister (ordinary or extraordinary) indicating that they will not be receiving Holy Communion, the minister is to say to them **"MAY CHRIST BE WITH YOU" or "CRISTO ESTÉ CONTIGO."** There should be NO GESTURE, just the words as given. It is unadvisable for ministers to touch the person in any way. **All the faithful are encouraged to make a sign of reverence as they approach the Blessed Sacrament even if not receiving, in the United States this has been determined to be a bow of the head.** [GIRM 160]"

This weekend we will begin this practice here in our church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.