

## **Our Lady Help Of Christians Guidelines For Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

An Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is a person who assists the Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion [a priest or deacon] in the distribution of Holy Communion. This is a very important role that affirms the dignity and holiness of all the baptized. The parish is pleased that you have agreed to serve in this way. These guidelines should assist you in this regard.

At each normal weekend Mass at Our Lady Help Of Christians (OLHC), seven extraordinary ministers are required or six when a Deacon assists. The numbers of extraordinary ministers required will vary on special occasions. Always check your roster.

### **Preparation**

Ministers should try to arrive at the church 15 minutes before the commencement of Mass, they should claim and wear their cross and report their presence to the Mass Coordinator, Sister Doreen or Priest or Deacon.

Extraordinary Ministers should be dressed in a way consistent with the dignity of their role, mindful of appropriate footwear for steps and polished floor boards.

Ministers should not exercise another liturgical ministry within the same Mass.

### **Procedures for Distribution**

Immediately following the Sign Of Peace, Ministers should enter the Sanctuary prior to the beginning of the Fraction Rite. Please do not wait for others to make the first move.

Ministers do not wash their hands in the ablution bowl in the sanctuary either before or after distribution of Holy Communion, so ensure the necessary actions prior to Mass.

The first minister should enquire of the presiding priest or deacon if previously consecrated hosts are to be brought to the Altar from the Tabernacle. If the answer is yes, the Minister goes directly to the Tabernacle, genuflects, opens the Tabernacle and takes the ciborium to the altar, placing it on the corporal and removes its lid. The Key may be left in the Tabernacle.

All Extraordinary Ministers stand in a semi-circle to the right of the altar in front of the credence table.

After the Ministers receive Holy Communion, they are given their appropriate Communion vessel by the priest or deacon. The Presiding Priest will normally nominate who will distribute the consecrated hosts and precious blood and from