COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Janet Cugini

May 2016

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, God of all creation!
I thank you for calling me to serve
your holy people in your house of worship.
May I see you in them and
May they see you in me.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

St. Tarcisius Patron Saint of Extraordinary Ministers

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Ministry Reflections
- Guidelines
- Closing Prayer

BUILDING ON OUR CATHOLIC LEGACY 1814-2014
ST. JOSEPH-ON-CARROLLTON MANOR

Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

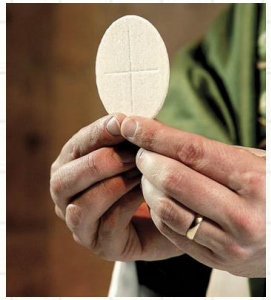
"… But he said to them, "You give them something to eat. … And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. …"

Luke 9:13-16

BUILDING ON OUR CATHOLIC LEGACY 1814-2014

ST. JOSEPH-ON-CARROLLTON MANOR

Reflecting on our Ministry



- We are **members** of Christ's community at Mass:
  - We **fulfill** our **call to discipleship**
  - We **participate** as an expression of our **dynamic, living**, **faith journey**
  - We **see Jesus in one another**
  - We **share** the presence of the Lord with others in our community
  - We **know** we are **privileged** to participate in the ministry of Christ
  - We are **responsible** for the Body and Blood of Jesus in our care
  - We **bring** ourselves and others to an **intimate relationship with our Lord,** to a **conscious, active, and fruitful participation** in the mystery of Christ
  - We **fulfill** our role with dignity, competence, and grace
  - We **fully participate** in the Mass
  - We **nurture** our ministry through prayer
  - We **grow** in our faith
  - We are **open** to the power of the Spirit working within us
  - We are **instruments** of Christ's Real Presence
  - We **serve** the people of God in the celebration of the Eucharist
  - We are **prepared** to serve

How We Serve the People of God

- We serve with:
  - **Humility:** the honor of serving our Lord follows the example of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity
  - **Hospitality:** all are God's children and privileged guests, including those who are homebound and are unable to participate in the liturgy.
  - **Gratitude:** Eucharist means thanksgiving; we show our thanks through our words and service.
  - **Reverence:** the reverence we show to the Body and Blood of Christ is an example to those in our parish community.

Communion to the Sick/Homebound

- **New Guidelines** were published
- **Any EM** can bring Communion to the sick/homebound
- **Pyx** is available as well as Communion of the Sick book
- **Smaller-sized consecrated hosts** for the sick are in the Historic Church (will need to obtain HC key from James)
- **Sign in** with name, date, time, who visiting (e.g. FMH) in Historic Church sacristy
- Make sure **HC** lights are turned off and tabernacle, sacristy, and front door is locked.

FMH Hospital Ministry

- This is a separate ministry from St. Joseph's homebound ministry
- Consists of EMs from all Frederick County Catholic parishes including St. Joseph's
- This is run by St. John's (Mike Willett does scheduling, Sister Margaret runs the program)
- St. Joseph Homebound Guidelines do not address this ministry
- I can give you contact information if you are interested in this ministry

Buckingham Choice and Crestwood

- We have several EMs that go to Buckingham Choice and Crestwood to distribute Communion.
- Father also has a Mass at Buckingham Choice once a month.
- There is also a Communion service once a month at Buckingham Choice.
- If interested in this ministry contact Lupe Lauer.

Guidelines for EM Homebound Visitation

- You can always obtain a pyx and give Communion to a relative or friend. ***Always notify the Parish Office***
- Other requests (parishioners, neighbors not familiar to you) should go through the **Parish Office first**: they will assign an EM (Lupe)
- **STAND Training:** Is required for all non-relative visits
- **Personal Safety:** If you are visiting a person unknown to you, another EM should accompany you
- **Attire:** you represent the Lord and our parish: please dress appropriately
- **Health:** *Don't visit if you are sick!*
- **Right to Minimal Intrusion:** homebound have a right to privacy: do not dig for information, give them hugs, etc. If the person being visited volunteers information, that is their right and topic can be discussed
- **Your role:** you are not a personal counselor: don't give medical or financial advice even if asked. Always refer them to a professional.

Guidelines for EM Homebound Visitation

- **Privacy:** do not share any information with others (except Father and Parish Office)
- ***Always carry the Body **on your person** in an appropriate pyx:***
  - Carry **reverently**: remember you are carrying the Body of Christ

- ***Never store the Blessed Sacrament in your home: go directly to the homebound without making any stops***
- **Blessing at Mass:** 8:30 Mass attendance is preferred. Put the pyx in the Offertory paten and tell the MCs that you will be giving Communion to the homebound. After Communion approach the Presider's chair to receive the blessing.

BUILDING ON OUR CATHOLIC LEGACY 1814-2014
ST. JOSEPH-ON-CARROLLTON MANOR

Guidelines for Homebound Visitation

- You can bring items such as the parish bulletin, ashes on Ash Wednesday, palms, rosaries, prayer books (Lent and Advent books), etc. **as appropriate for the level of understanding**
- ***Do not bring food:*** the person may have dietary restrictions that you (or him/her!) may not know about
- Good idea to bring **hand sanitizer** and use it before distributing Communion
- **Spirit of Welcome: thank** the person being visited for the opportunity to visit, make him/her feel they are **part of St. Joseph's community**: prayer ministry is available!
- **Atmosphere:** ask **permission** to turn off any TVs, radios, etc.
- If other family members request Communion ask if they are Catholic **first**

BUILDING ON OUR CATHOLIC LEGACY 1814-2014
ST. JOSEPH-ON-CARROLLTON MANOR

Guidelines for Homebound Visitation

- **Never accept money or gifts**: if the person tries to give you money do not accept: say it's not your role and tell them they can always mail a contribution
- **Non Communion tasks:** it is fine, for example, to give a glass of water but doing household chores, shopping, cleaning, driving to/from doctor's offices/other places: *this is not your role.*
- **Other needs:** if the person needs personal assistance of any kind (lack of food, household tasks) have the person or family member contact our **Outreach ministry**
- After the visit fill out our **homebound visitation form** found on the website. Submit once a month. Make sure you fill out the **clergy visit information**
- Any **requests for clergy visits** (including Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick) should be given to the Parish Office

BUILDING ON OUR CATHOLIC LEGACY 1814-2014
ST. JOSEPH-ON-CARROLLTON MANOR

Guidelines for Homebound Visitation

- **State of Heath:** if you notice a downturn, make sure a family member is **immediately contacted**. You can ask the person if they'd like to receive Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick
- **Consuming the Body:** if you are not sure if the person can consume a whole consecrated host, it is okay to give just a **piece**. Anything left over can be consumed or buried outside the Church.
- **Unconsumed Consecrated Hosts:** only take to the homebound what is needed, not extra hosts. If only a partial host is consumed, you can consume the rest. This is considered an extension of your own Communion.

Homebound Prayer Guidelines

- The Sign of the Cross
- Penitential Rite: “Lord I am not worthy …,” “Lord have mercy…” (It is okay if the homebound uses the older “Lord I am not worthy” prayer)
- Liturgy of the Word: short reading (prayer booklet, Sunday reading)
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Communion
- Moment of silence
- Closing prayer
- Sign of the Cross
- **Offer of Thanks:** “Thank you for allowing me to visit you today.”

Note: we have booklets with a Spanish translation

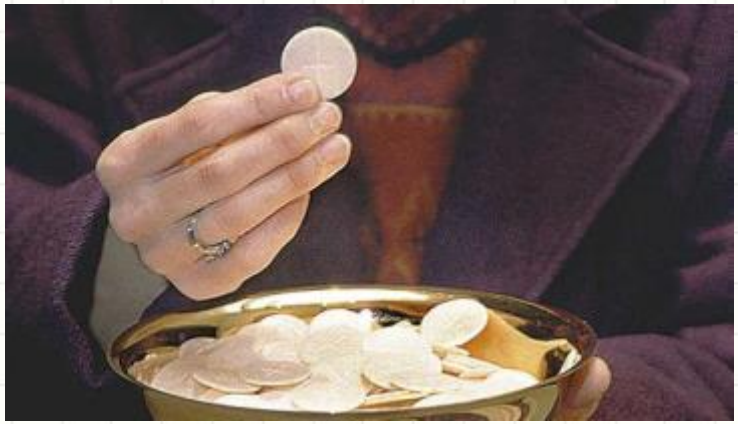
Homebound Visitation Do's and Don'ts

- ***Do:***
  - Make an appointment
  - Always use a pyx and carry it on your person
  - Use the "Communion for the Sick" booklet
  - Be welcoming, share parish news
  - Thank the person for the opportunity to pray with them
  - Fill out a Visit form
- ***Don't:***
  - Visit if you are sick yourself
  - Stay too long or take on the role of a counselor
  - Compete with a TV or radio (politely ask if you can turn it off)
  - Carry the Blessed Sacrament in any other place besides your person
  - Store the Blessed Sacrament in your home.

A "Don't" Example

EM Homebound Issues

Q & A



Closing Prayer

Jesus, bless these hands
you have chosen as your tools.
Always keep us aware
and in awe of our sacred mission.
Make us worthy of this great ministry
we have humbly accepted,
and send us out into the world
to distribute your love. Amen