

The Real Presence Project Today's Topic Respect For The Eucharist

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This is My Body

IN THIS EDITION

Feast of Corpus Christi, 2018

The Eucharist Is Jesus Christ

The Basics Expanded And Explained

Ways To Reduce Abuses Of The Eucharist

Ways To End Abuses Once And For All

Rights, Duties, Responsibilities

Profanation: The act of depriving something of its sacred character; a disrespectful act; irreverence; degradation of something worthy of respect.

Desecrate: To treat a sacred place or thing with violent disrespect.

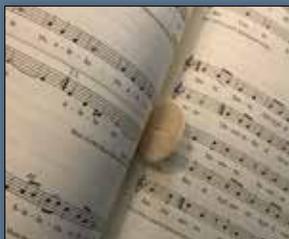
Liturgical Abuse: Doing something contrary to the instructions found in the GIRM like not using the Communion-plate

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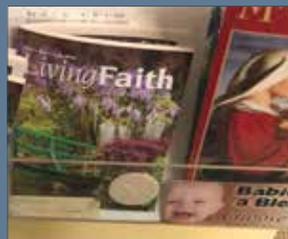
Examples Of Profanation Of The Holy Eucharist



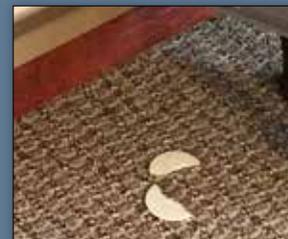
Particles stepped on



Hosts found in hymnals



Hosts found in book racks



Hosts found under pews

The Eucharist Is Jesus Christ

by Stephen J. Marino,
Communitas Dei Patris

Do you love the Eucharist? I certainly do! But it wasn't always that way for me because when I was a boy, and even afterward for a time, I just took the Blessed Sacrament for granted. At times I even questioned whether or not the little round host could really be Jesus. But, the nuns told me it was and so it must have been true, right? I ended up leaving the Church and had no religious convictions for 20 years. Thank God He didn't give up on me. Like the prodigal son, it took a life-changing event for me to realize that the Eucharist did in fact mean everything to me...and I do mean *everything*. That was 33 years ago this month.

Since then, my love for Jesus in the Eucharist has continued to grow and mature (**See: Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist⁽¹⁾**), and that's why I decided to write this article. I also came to realize that while each of us is on a journey — a pilgrimage to the House of the Father — our love for Jesus in the Eucharist, like our spiritual life, is unique and unrepeatable. Even so, there are some fundamental truths that still apply to everyone. Before getting into that, let me just say that as my love for Jesus deepens, so also does my awareness of how much indifference and disrespect there seems to be toward Our

Lord
in the
Blessed
Sacrament.

Certainly not by everyone, and I make no judgment as to motives or intentions, but objectively speaking there is something seriously amiss in the Church today. Could it be a crisis of faith?

I've seen consecrated hosts that have been thrown away, particles of consecrated bread (the Body of Christ) left in unpurified Communion bowls, scattered on the altar and on the floor near and around the altar and on the floor where Communion had been distributed to the faithful. I witnessed a bride on her wedding day not consume the Eucharist but instead put it in her purse when she returned to the pew. I've seen others do the same or similar things after they received the host in their hand but did not consume it. I've seen ordinary ministers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion regularly drop hosts on the floor, once even by a bishop (the Communion-plate...server's paten...was not being used), and I witnessed and documented as many as 16 verified liturgical abuses in one rural parish alone.

Even after I reported those abuses to the proper authorities, they continued.

Two weeks ago, a priest-friend sent me a link to a video of a **papal Mass in Manila in 2015**^[2] where the Eucharist was being passed over the tops of people's heads from person to person (with the potential for particles falling to the ground and being trampled) which is a grave profanation and is strictly forbidden. I've also either met or talked with other faithful Catholics in cities across the United States – and read eyewitness reports or watched YouTube videos from people in various places throughout the world – of similar abuses happening in their areas and so my experiences are by no means isolated cases.

I can't help but believe that these ongoing abuses are especially symptomatic of the decline of the Catholic Church in the West: the old faithful watch is dying off, young people are leaving in droves, vocations to the priesthood and religious life are declining and parishes are being closed or consolidated because attendance is dropping. I have seven other brothers and sisters, six of whom have abandoned the Catholic faith even after attending Catholic grade school. And, my family is not atypical! So yes, I believe there is a crisis of faith today because if people truly believed (**CARA Survey on belief in the Real Presence, See pages 54-56**^[3]) that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, our churches would be filled to overflowing (**CARA Statistics, See page 20**^[4]), vocations would be flourishing and there would be a revival, a *new springtime* within *The New Evangelization* promulgated by Saint John Paul the Great! But, that's just not happening.

With Privilege Comes Responsibility

Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith^[5]: Jesus, who gives Himself to us both physically and spiritually every time we receive Holy Communion. What an *awesome* privilege! However, with that privilege comes responsibility!

Each of us is personally responsible for giving Jesus the respect He deserves, always and everywhere of course, but especially during Mass and when receiving Holy Communion. And so today I want to review three specific ways that we can give Him that respect by understanding **the basics**, and by suggesting ways to **reduce and end** abuses, profanation and desecration of the Eucharist.

The Basics Expanded And Explained

The constant teaching of the Catholic Church since the time of the Apostles (see **Early Church Fathers**^[6]), which was

made definitive at The **Council of Trent (1545-1563; scroll down to Canons on the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist**^[7]), is that the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Canon I) **along with any fragments of either species [i.e., consecrated particles of bread or consecrated drops of wine]** (cf. Canon III | See **Official Church Teachings**^[8]).

Also, Catholic doctrine affirms that Jesus Christ remains present in the consecrated Hosts, particles and wine (the Body and Blood of Christ) until the appearance of bread or wine is no longer recognizable (whitish color of the host, look, feel, taste, etc. | **See Eucharistic miracles: Lanciano**^[9], **Buenos Aires**^[10], **Sokolka**^[11], **Tixtla**^[12]).

1. For Catholic Lay People

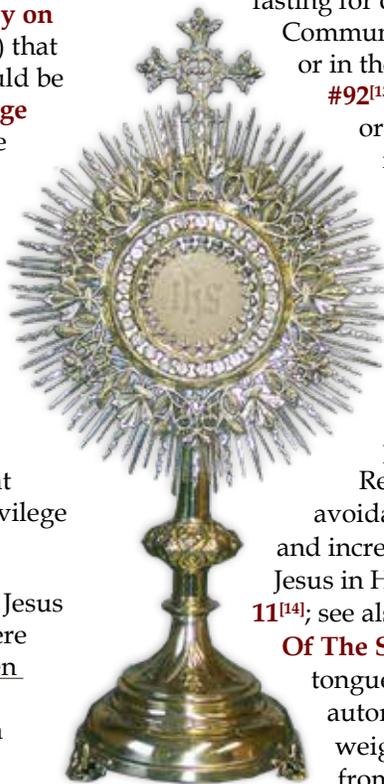
Respect can be shown by dressing appropriately and modestly when attending Mass; being free from serious sin always but especially when receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion (by using the Sacrament of Confession); arriving early to pray and not leaving early to go somewhere else; avoiding distractions; not talking before or during Mass but preparing one's heart instead; fasting for one hour before receiving; receiving Holy Communion devoutly whether on the tongue or in the hand (**Redemptionis Sacramentum, #92**^[13]; [RS]); and either bowing, genuflecting or kneeling as a sign of reverence before receiving Our Lord. In truth, these external expressions should merely reflect the internal dispositions of the heart and love for Jesus.

Communion On The Tongue

Receiving Communion on the tongue has been the traditional-predominate practice in the Church for ~1,600 years. Reasons for this practice include the avoidance of dropping particles of the Eucharist and increasing devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion (cf. **Dominicae Ceneae, 11**^[14]; see also **Office For Liturgical Celebrations Of The Supreme Pontiff**^[15])! Receiving on the tongue – whereby both host and particles are automatically consumed – carries with it the weight of history and correct discernment from the early Church Fathers, and is also the safest and surest way to avoid abuses, profanation and desecration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Communion In The Hand

Historically, Communion in the hand was tolerated when Christians were being persecuted during the first

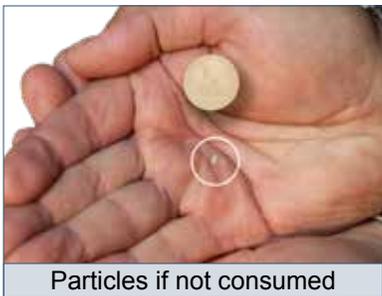


few centuries A.D. (See **Did the Church Fathers Practice Communion in the Hand? (Not Exactly)**^[16] by Dr. Taylor Marshall). After that, Communion in the hand was prohibited (banned) until after Vatican II beginning in the 1970s, but not universally in every Catholic diocese throughout the world. Today, people may receive **Communion in the hand only where permitted**^[17].

Even where Communion in the hand is permitted, there are conditions: The host must be consumed in the presence of the minister to ensure that it is consumed and not stolen (cf. **RS, #92**^[18]).

The Church also recommends a tradition handed down from St. Cyril of Jerusalem (**Norms, see #41**^[19]) who said, “place your left hand as a throne beneath your right, as befits one who is about to receive the King. Then receive him, taking care that nothing is lost.”

You also need to ensure there are no particles of the consecrated Host stuck to your hand at the same time you consume the host; if there are, the best way to pick up the particle is to either use your tongue or moisten the tip of your finger to pick up the particle and place it on your tongue. If your hands are too dirty, then with all due respect to Our Lord, you should have received on the tongue in the first place.



Particles if not consumed

Ordinary Ministers And Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion

If you are an ordinary minister (deacon

or priest) or extraordinary minister (lay person) of Holy Communion, you should ensure that the communicant consumes the Host and any particles in your presence (cf. **RS, #92**^[20]). If the Communion-plate is not being used, then after you finish distributing Communion, you should ensure that there are no particles of consecrated Hosts on the floor in that general area, or particles stuck to your fingers.

When children or adults present themselves for a blessing, lay ministers could simply say, “May God bless you” and not touch them on the head, shoulder or anywhere else

since there could easily be particles of the consecrated hosts on their fingers that would end up being lost and abused.

2. Priests should be using the Communion-plate (server’s paten); it is the norm, not an option

Paragraph #93 of *Redemptionis Sacramentum* states that the Communion-plate “**should be retained**” to help prevent the consecrated host or some piece of it from falling to the ground (cf. **RS, #93**^[21]; *Redemptionis Sacramentum* is an official Church document that clarifies some aspects of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal [GIRM] and teachings about the Eucharist).



In an **EWTN Q&A**^[22], Rev. Mark J. Gantley, JCL, said that the term “*oportet*” from the Latin text which was translated to English as “should” is too weak. He said it would be more accurately translated as “must.” Either way, the translation has the same basic meaning: **should** is used to indicate obligation, duty, or correctness while **must** is said to oblige.

Also, the GIRM clearly states that the Communion-plate is to be placed on the credence table and requires that it be held under the chin when Communion is distributed by intinction (cf. **GIRM, See Chapter 4: #118 c and #287 respectively**^[23]). What is important to note here is the inclusion of the Communion-plate simply because its sole purpose is to help prevent consecrated Hosts and particles, and consecrated drops of wine from falling to the ground and being stepped on or worse.

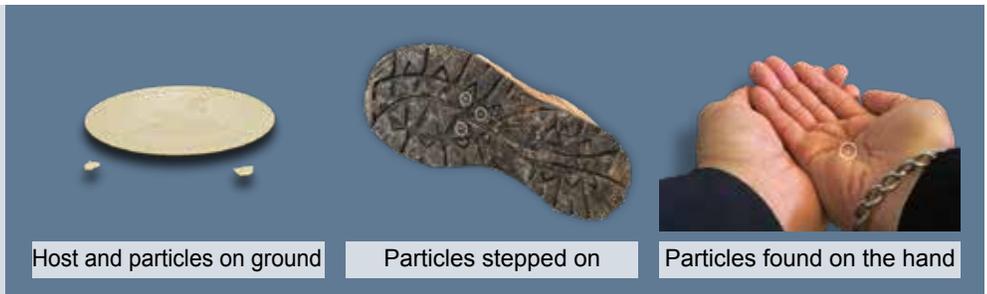
3. Everyone should be guarding against all types of profanation or desecration of the Blessed Sacrament

In addition to the things I’ve already mentioned in #1 and #2—to receive the Holy Eucharist worthily and to protect it from abuse, profanation and desecration—everyone should be alert to the possibility that someone may still try to

Things To Guard Against

Stepping on consecrated hosts or particles that may have fallen on the ground

Leaving particles on the fingers or in the hand



Host and particles on ground

Particles stepped on

Particles found on the hand

abscond with a host (i.e. taking the host out of their mouth if they received on the tongue or concealing the host if they received in the hand). Should you witness such an event, immediately inform the priest so appropriate steps can be taken to recover the Eucharist before the person gets away, even if it means interrupting the priest during distribution of Holy Communion. I found that I had to do this on several occasions, and while it seemed uncomfortable in the moment, in the end everything turned out alright: the host was either consumed or recovered. It also turned out to be a great teaching moment for the priest or deacon.

Ways To Reduce Abuses Of The Eucharist

Remember what I said about particles of the Eucharist being stuck on fingers, found on the hand, hosts and especially particles falling to the floor and being stepped on, people walking away without consuming the host or not consuming the host in the presence of the ordinary or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion? What are the two common denominators? Communion in the hand and no Communion-plate.

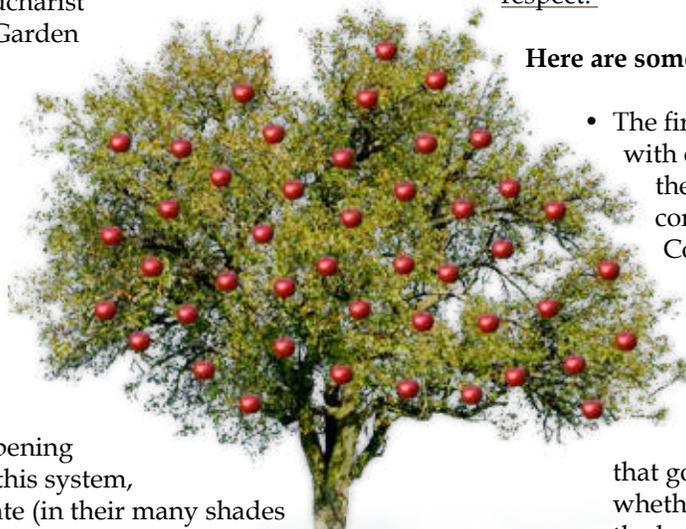


Particles found on the hand

Stick with me for a minute, especially if you're starting to feel defensive about what I just said. Hosts and particles can and do fall to the floor when received on the tongue, but significantly less often, and even less than that when the Communion-plate is properly placed under the chin.

So, what does an apple tree have to do with the Eucharist? Well, for starters, we *have* the Eucharist because of an apple tree (think Garden of Eden)! More to the point: it provides the visual means for making my case.

The current way of dealing with Eucharistic abuses in the Church is to report them when someone becomes aware of them as I did on multiple occasions. What then? The abuses may or may not get resolved, and even if they do, it doesn't prevent them from happening again. Make no mistake: under this system, abuses will continue to proliferate (in their many shades and colors) again and again simply because there's no



shut-off valve; plus, there are more than 300,000 Masses (415,656 priests worldwide in 2015; See World Data Over Time^[24]) celebrated worldwide every day; there is a Mass being celebrated somewhere *every hour, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days a year*, and each Mass has the potential for one or more abuses.

To my way of thinking, the current system does not even scratch the surface of solving the problem, and the number of abuses against Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, goes basically unchecked and over time multiplies exponentially beyond human imagining. It's like picking apples off apple trees in the world's largest apple orchard: remove one apple and another grows back in its place.

In all fairness, I've tried to look for the good in this system but I cannot find it. I cannot convince myself that this system either respects or honors Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It's just not working, it's failed and it will continue to fail for all of the reasons I cited earlier.

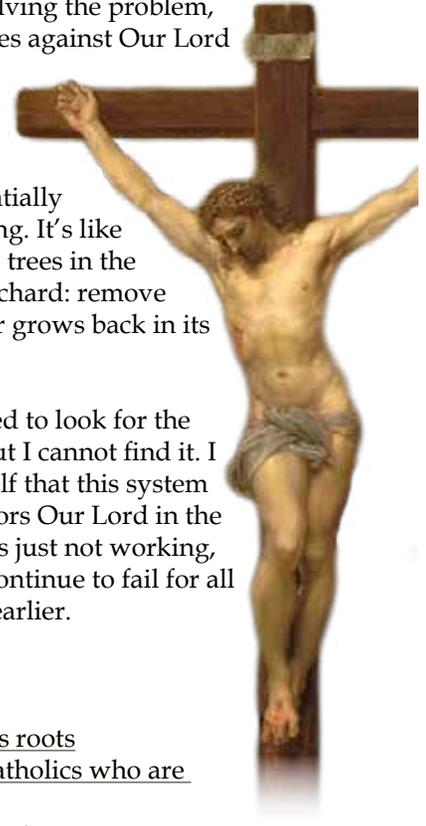
So What Next?

I believe we need a grass roots movement of faithful Catholics who are willing to stand up and help facilitate changes that will either reduce or end Eucharistic abuses within the Church...from the bottom up. The Church gives us that right as long as we do it in truth, and with charity and respect.

See how much I love you?

Here are some short-term recommendations

- The first step is to familiarize yourself with official Church teachings on the Real Presence and practices concerning reception of Holy Communion (the current teachings of the Church, the major practices for receiving the Eucharist and common sense ideas are enumerated in this publication) and then modify anything you're doing that goes contrary to those protocols, whether receiving on the tongue or in the hand.



- Next, ask family and close friends to do the same by giving them a copy of this publication in either a PDF format (Go viral by forwarding it to everyone on your email list and asking them to do the same) or as a printed copy.

- Talk to other parishioners, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and ask them to read this publication and get involved; the more people the better.

- Share this information with your parish priest and charitably ask him to correct any liturgical abuses that may be taking place in your parish including using the Communion-plate if he's not already doing so. Be ready to back him up with your support and encouragement because he may be either unwilling at first, or he may get negative pressure from other priests or even his bishop (even though these things are already required by the Church) .

- Suggest a parish-wide reorientation and refresher course on the official teachings and practices of the Church concerning reception of Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand with particular emphasis on respect and an awareness that particles may have fallen on the ground or hand.

- If your pastor says “no” or is unresponsive, take everything to your bishop (It would be helpful to have as many people as possible join the effort).

- Contact people you know who are members of other Catholic parishes (either in the area or anywhere else in the world) and forward this information to them, preferably in PDF format so they can also forward it to people on their email list or print copies for others.

It is important to know your rights

If you are concerned about bringing this information to your pastor or bishop, please remember: You have the right, and even at times the duty, to make your thoughts known about Church teachings that are being marginalized and other opinions that pertain to the good of the Church. You also have the right to give this information to other Catholics.

You should never be fearful when proclaiming the truth, but always do so in charity and with respect.

These are your rights as a Catholic and those rights can be found in **The New Catechism of the Catholic Church, #907^[25]**, in **Canon Law, #212 § 3^[26]**, and in **Redemptionis Sacramentum (Sacrament of Redemption), #184^[27]**.

Lastly, if the abuse(s), profanation(s) or desecration(s) of the Holy Eucharist continue after contacting your bishop,

you also have the right to contact the Holy See:

Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect
**Congregation for Divine Worship
 and the Discipline of the Sacraments**
 Palazzo delle Congregazioni, 00193 Roma,
 Piazza Pio XII, 10

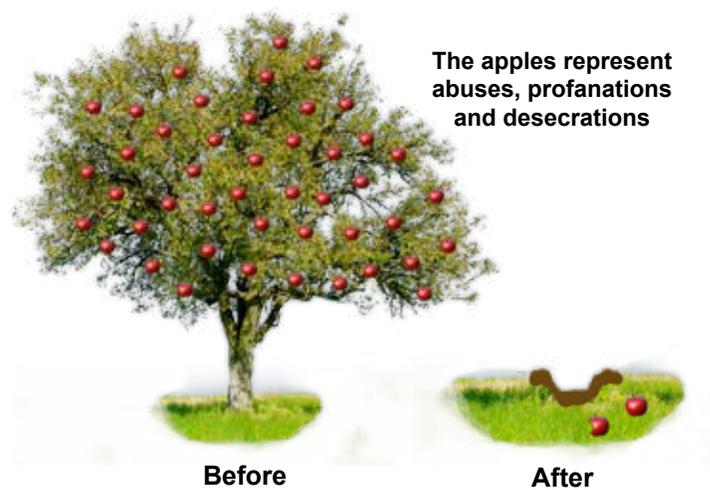
Ways To End Abuses Once And For All

In my estimation, the long-term solution is...

After looking at all of the problems in their various dimensions and considering all viable options that could end the abuses, profanations and desecrations to the extent humanly possible, the ultimate answer became obvious:

Remember the apple tree? Pulling an apple off and having another one grow back in its place? That's what the current program does and it's not working. To get serious and rid the apples once and for all (which represent abuses, profanations and desecrations in this analogy) – and the Church *should* get serious about this – then the only real option is to pull the apple tree out by its roots, and in one fell swoop 95+% of the apples (abuses, profanations and desecrations) are gone.

Here's what pulling the apple tree out by its roots looks like:



- First, it means that all of us must die to our selfish desires and do what's best for the common good; in this case, restoring universal respect for Jesus in the Eucharist, being universally united in our common belief in the Real Presence and proclaiming this truth to the world like

faithful Catholic bishops, priests and lay people did for the past 2,000 years (**And on the tongue from circa 400 A.D. to 1970 A.D.**^[28])

- End Communion in the hand because it opened a **Pandora's box** that unleashed worldwide abuse, profanation and desecration of the Holy Eucharist.
- Mandate use of the Communion-plate in every parish and diocese worldwide according to existing Church Norms in the GIRM and explained in *Redemptionis Sacramentum* to help prevent consecrated hosts and particles, and drops of consecrated wine from falling to the ground and being abused.
- Re-evangelize all Catholics worldwide in Church teachings and practices regarding the Eucharist and the proper way of receiving Holy Communion.
- Thank God that He's given us enough time to repent of our errors and restore integrity, honor and respect for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Remember Fatima

With a host suspended in the air, the Angel who appeared at Fatima in October 1916 taught the children this prayer: **"O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore thee profoundly. I offer thee the most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which he is offended."**

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAS-s5W0yeM>
 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3G43C16Ju0>
 3 <https://cara.georgetown.edu/sacramentsreport.pdf>
 4 <https://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/>
 5 <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a3.htm#1324>
 6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPPMCKQhn78>
 7 <https://www.ewtn.com/library/COUNCILS/TRENT13.HTM>
 8 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gEpB133xzY>
 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vUpPCYE6vE>
 10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBS-xWeWuCM>
 11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQSkme73atg>
 12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdtqlpxkQk>
 13 http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20040423_redemptionis-

sacramentum_en.html
 14 https://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1980/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_19800224_dominicae-cenae.html
 15 http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/details/ns_lit_doc_20091117_comunione_en.html
 16 <http://taylormarshall.com/2011/01/did-church-fathers-practice-communion.html>
 17 <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/03/21/pope-francis-people-may-receive-communion-in-the-hand-where-permitted/>
 18 See footnote #13
 19 <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/norms-for-holy-communion-under-both-kinds/index.cfm>
 20 See footnote #13
 21 See footnote #13

22 http://www.ewtn.com/v/experts/showresult.asp?RecNum=435332&record_
 23 http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20030317_ordinamento-messale_en.html
 24 See footnote #4
 25 <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/para/907.htm>
 26 http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_PU.HTM
 27 See footnote #13
 28 See footnote #16
 29 See footnote #13
 30 http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html

Most of all, let us do everything from the heart and out of love for Jesus, and not just because we should or have to.

Rights Of The Laity, Obligations Of Priests And Duties Of Bishops From *Redemptionis Sacramentum*^[29]

- Nobody – not bishops, priests or lay people – can change any of the official Mass rubrics on his own authority, otherwise they deprive Christ's faithful of their patrimony and heritage and introduce elements of distortion and disharmony into the liturgical celebration (cf. #11).
- The lay faithful have a right to expect their priest and bishop to safeguard the Mass against innovations, and to ensure that all of the Norms specified (required) in the GIRM are faithfully incorporated into the Mass (cf. #11, 18, 19, and 24). If not, the lay faithful have a right to lodge a complaint of liturgical abuse with their bishop and expect results. If there are no results, the abuse may be submitted to the Apostolic See (cf. #184).
- Nobody, including priests, can change anything in the liturgy (the Mass) based on his or her own likes or dislikes, or on his or her own authority (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, See #22-3^[30]).



In the Communion of Saints, we are the Church Militant on earth

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A PDF copy of this document can be obtained **free** on our **FamilyPrayerNight.org** website for printing or forwarding to friends, deacons, priests and bishops. Go viral by inviting others

to do the same. Also, check out our new video, **Respect For Jesus In The Eucharist**, to gain additional insights and more information. Together and with God's help, we *can* make a difference by ending, once and for all, the worldwide profanation and desecration of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist! But to do so, ***you must take action and you must do it now!***

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