

A SUGGESTED RITE OF SENDING  
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion  
From the Sunday liturgy to the homebound and sick members of the parish

"The obligation to visit and comfort those who cannot take part in the Eucharistic assembly may be clearly demonstrated by taking communion to them from the community's Eucharistic celebration. This symbol of unity between the community and its sick members has the deepest significance on (Sunday) the Lord's Day, the special day of the Eucharistic assembly."

[Pastoral Care of Sick: Rite of Anointing and Viaticum, #73]

The intention of the church is to maintain the unity of the entire Body of Christ on the Lord's Day. Those from the community, who are homebound, whether by age or sickness or both, are vital to the life of the community. They manifest the suffering Lord and are in need of the Eucharist to sustain their faith and hope in the face of their suffering.

They need the community's ministry as much as the community needs their ministry. On that day when the community gathers to receive and become the Body of Christ, it is important to include the sick and homebound in the opportunity to receive the gift of the Eucharist from that gathering and celebration.

A simple ritual for the dismissal of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMC) from the Sunday liturgy can serve two purposes:

1. To allow the EMC to go immediately to the sick without being impeded by crowds and cars allowing reverence and protection for the Eucharist they bear.
2. To form the assembly in the importance of homebound members in the community, the vital ministry they serve as the Body of Christ in their homes or rooms, and a public reminder to the assembly that the Eucharist is available to all in times of sickness.

#### Ritual for Dismissal of EMC to the Sick

1. The EMC receives communion during the liturgy, as usual.
2. When all have received, distributors bring the remaining Eucharist is brought to the altar. It is not returned to the tabernacle yet.
3. EMCs who will be visiting the homebound and sick come forward with a pyx (or the pyx is places on the altar before Mass, a sign to the presider an EMC plans to make a visit). The presider fills the pyx
3. Then the presider addresses the EMCs in these or similar words:

Priest:	Brothers and sisters, we send you to bring the Eucharist from this celebration to our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly and homebound and unable to be with us.  Share the scripture proclaimed today along with points from the homily to help them to participate in today's Liturgy of the Word.  Assure them that we are praying for them. Remind them that we need their prayers to build up the Body of Christ in our community.  Go now to share the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament.
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4. The EMC leaves immediately and the presider goes to the tabernacle.
5. The concluding rite follows as usual.