

## **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**



As members of the Body of Christ, each of us shares in the priesthood of Jesus, all through the priesthood of the faithful and some through the sacramental priesthood. But, as Christians, each of us is called to share the presence of the Lord Jesus with one another through the way we live.

Some feel a deeper call to share His presence through the ministry of an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. In this way we share Him, as did those who went before us, with brothers and sisters at Mass and to those members of our community who, because of illness or some other reason, are unable to join us for the celebration of Eucharist.

The desire to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is very special. It is a true call from God.

An Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist:

- Must be a “Good” or “Practicing” Catholic;
- Must be a registered member of the parish;
- Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Must have been confirmed;
- Must be recommended by the Pastor;
- Must be appointed by the diocesan bishop; and
- May serve only in the parish or setting in which he/she has been approved or appointed.

**If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, call the Parish Office for more information, 318 687 5121.**

The Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is committed to and responsible for:

- Serving at least once or twice a month;
- Choosing the Mass at which he/she would like to function;
- Accepting the assignment to serve the Body or the Blood of Christ;
- Arriving at Mass at least 15 minutes early for reflection time; and
- Obtaining a substitute when unable to be present for an assignment.

### TRAINING SESSIONS

Each candidate to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is required to take part in a special training program. The Coordinator of Lay Ministers of the Eucharist will conduct those sessions.

No one may serve as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist until they have been trained. Nor may anyone function as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist until the Pastor has nominated him or her, the Bishop has appointed him or her, and the Pastor has formally commissioned him or her.

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK

St. Mary of the Pines Church has several nursing homes within its boundaries. Catholic residents of these institutions, as well as those in the parish who are homebound, have the right to receive the Lord in the Eucharist on a regular basis. Included also is LSU Hospital. There is always a need for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to care for these brothers and sisters.

Being a Minister to the Sick is a special calling and a privilege for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. You are trusted and invited into the homes and lives of some very special people. **Confidentiality** is essential to this ministry. You may hear or see things that are very private and dear to these people and these things must be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality. They may **not** be discussed with others.

Ministry to the sick requires specialized training, and a few calls have been made with a more experienced Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. During this training time the minister discovers how to visit the sick, to listen to them and be aware that Ministers are there for the **sick person's needs** and **not** their own.

***A church Minister to the Sick is an official representative of the church parish. CONFIDENTIALITY IS ESSENTIAL! Do not repeat anything seen or heard when visiting a home, nursing home, or hospital. This is a position of trust. Be sure to honor that trust.***