



Clarification on “Communion Services” and Communion to the Sick in *Instruction: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Assisting at Mass and Communion of the Sick in the Diocese of Cleveland*

“Communion Services” in nursing homes/hospitals

Paragraph 74 of *Instruction: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Assisting at Mass and Communion to the Sick in the Diocese of Cleveland* states that when communion is distributed in a hospital or other health-care institution, the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion uses the appropriate ritual from Pastoral Care of the Sick.

Paragraph 20 of the *Instruction* states, “Individuals who take Communion to the sick – who are either confined to their homes or nursing homes or are in a hospital setting – are to have additional formation and training specific to that ministerial function, based on the Roman Ritual Pastoral Care of the Sick.”

Thus, when no Priest is available for Mass in a nursing home, and no Deacon available to lead a “communion service” a commissioned extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, after appropriate formation from the parish or institution, **may** lead the “communion service” found in Chapter III of Pastoral Care of the Sick at a nursing home or hospital.

There are two options for communion to the sick.

1. Paragraphs 78, 81-91 allow for the possibility of gathering the residents or patients in groups.
2. The second (paragraphs 92-96) “Rite for Communion in a Hospital or Institution” is for use when it is not possible to celebrate the full rite.