

Guidelines for Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors

1. The minister in charge of a congregation shall instruct the congregation through sermons, newsletters, and teachings on the reasons for commissioning lay persons for these ministries.
2. The minister in charge shall determine who needs and desires communion under the provisions of this canon, and the frequency of that ministration which is most suitable.
3. The minister in charge shall determine the number of persons required to undertake a regular schedule of extended communions. As a general rule, no person should be asked to take communion to more than two homes on a Sunday.
4. The minister in charge shall select and prepare in accordance with the diocesan guidelines suitable persons for these ministries and shall recommend them to the bishop for licensing. As is the case for Bishops, Priests and Deacons, it is expected that licensed Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors shall do their best to pattern their lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ, striving in all things to be wholesome examples to the people of God. Thus it is not appropriate to recommend for licensing anyone whose lifestyle is an affront to the gospel, for instance, anyone known to be perpetrating fraud, a malicious gossip, or someone known to be engaging in sexual relations outside of holy matrimony.
5. These licenses shall be issued for a period of three years and may be revoked by the Bishop upon request of or upon notice to the Rector/Vicar or Priest-in-Charge.
6. When a deacon serves in a congregation, it may be advantageous for the deacon to supervise the work of the Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors.
7. It is recommended that the person to be ministered to be prayed for specifically in the Prayers of the People by the congregation on that day.
8. It is desirable that other parishioners, relatives, and friends be present to communicate with the person visited.
9. The sacrament shall be carried in a suitable container provided by the parish for this purpose.
10. If the sick person cannot receive either the consecrated Bread or the Wine, it is suitable to administer the Sacrament in one kind only.
11. Eucharistic Visitors shall not vest for the administration of Communion.
12. Eucharistic Visitors shall record their ministry in the Service Register within a week of their visit.
13. The administration of the Sacrament to the persons visited should take place in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Following the communions of the people, the Eucharistic Visitors may come forward and be commended for this ministry with the following or similar words:

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.