

# Eucharistic Minister Training

Diocese of Central New York

## Welcome

- ❖ Introduce yourself
- ❖ Ask how many either have been or are currently licensed Eucharistic Ministers.
- ❖ Let people know where the bathrooms are.
- ❖ Make people feel comfortable. Let them know that they are free to get up and move around and leave the room if necessary.
- ❖ Allow time for a short break.

## Opening Prayer: *(using the prayer below or one of your own choosing)*

- ❖ Let Us Pray

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

## Requirements for Eucharistic Ministers

- ❖ Confirmed or Received Communicants in good standing in the Episcopal Church.
- ❖ Currently an active member of the Parish.
- ❖ Taken Safe Church Training
- ❖ Approval by the Parish priest
- ❖ A license signed by the Bishop. To be renewed every five years.

## What is this ministry?

- ❖ It is an extraordinary ministry which does not take the place of the ministry of priests and deacons concerning the administration of the Eucharist.
- ❖ Title III Canon 4 of the Episcopal Church states the following:  
*Sec. 1A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist. Requirements and*

*guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.*

*Sec. 6 A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister acts under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.*

- ❖ The laity have been authorized to perform this ministry since 1967 (women since 1969). Until 1985 administering the cup was considered to be part of the Lay Reader's ministry. In 1985 the canons were changed and this ministry was separated from that of a Lay Reader. Over time the name of this ministry has changed from chalice bearer, to Lay Eucharistic Minister to Eucharistic Minister. Prior to the current lay minister. This is a recognition that through our baptismal vows we are all ministers.

### **Meaning of the Eucharist** (use one or all of the information below or prepare your own.)

- ❖ **From the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer**

#### ***Sacraments***

*Q. What are the sacraments?*

*The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.*

#### ***The Holy Eucharist***

*Q. What is the Holy Eucharist?*

*The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again.*

*Q. Why is the Eucharist called a sacrifice?*

*Because the Eucharist, the Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, is the way by which the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and in which he unites us to his one offering of himself.*

*Q. By what other names is this service known?*

*The Holy Eucharist is called the Lord's Supper, and Holy Communion; it is also known as the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, and the Great Offering.*

*Q. What is the outward and visible sign in the Eucharist?*

*A. The outward and visible sign in the Eucharist is bread and wine, given and received according to Christ's command.*

*Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace given in the Eucharist?*

*A. The inward and spiritual grace in the Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people, and received by faith.*

*Q. What are the benefits which we receive in the Lord's Supper?*

*The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is our nourishment in eternal life.*

*Q. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist?*

*A. It is required that we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people.*

#### ❖ **From the Scriptures**

*Matthew 26:26-29*

*While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'*

*Mark 22-25*

*While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'*

*Luke 20:14-20*

*When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'*

**Vested Chalice and items on the Altar at the Eucharist** (you may want to display these items.)

- ❖ Bread box: A lidded box containing the unleavened wafers for the Eucharist.
- ❖ Burse: A flat case constructed of two stiffened sides covered with cloth in the liturgical color of

the season and in which are contained purificators and corporals [from Medieval Latin, *bursa*, purse].

- ❖ Chalice: A cup, usually with a broad base, for the consecrated wine of the Eucharist [from Latin, *calix*].
- ❖ Ciborium: A vessel, usually shaped like a chalice with a cover, which is used to contain the wafers to be consecrated for the Eucharist; usually comes with a chalice in matching sets. Consecrated wafers may also be served from a ciborium [from Latin, meaning a drinking cup, from the Greek, *kib\_rium*].
- ❖ Corporal: A large white linen cloth on which the consecrated elements of the Eucharist are placed during the celebration; in effect, it serves as a "table cloth" to catch any crumbs or spills (in which case it is treated with the reverence due consecrated elements of the Eucharist [from Latin, *corporalis*, "of the body," from *corpus*, meaning "body"].
- ❖ Cruet: A small glass or silver pitcher or bottle for holding water and wine for the Eucharist; if silver or other opaque material, some design will indicate whether it contains water or wine [from Old French, *crue*, a flask].
- ❖ Fair linen: A white linen cloth about the width of the altar but longer so that it hangs off each side of the altar; another name for altar cloth. At the Eucharist, the corporal is placed on the fair linen. The name is from the rubrics of Cranmer's First Book of Common Prayer which directs that "the table be covered by a fair linen..."
- ❖ Flagon: A large (and usually somewhat ornate) pitcher having a spout and handle, of silver or ceramic, used to hold the wine to be consecrated at the Eucharist [from Latin, *flasco*, a flask].
- ❖ Host: The large wafer elevated by the celebrant and broken at the Fraction; usually is segmented to aid in breaking without many crumbs (which are caught by the corporal) [from Latin, *hostia*, sacrifice]. Pall: As used in the Eucharist, a stiff white linen covered board used to cover the chalice at the Fraction (to keep out crumbs) and which also provides stability for the paten, burse and veil of a vested chalice [from Latin, *pallium*, cloak].
- ❖ Paten: A shallow dish, usually of gold or silver, used to hold the Eucharistic bread during the consecration and administration when it is in wafer form; may also be used to designate a position at the Eucharist, e.g., a designated person is the "paten", i.e., will serve the bread [from Latin, *patina*, plate].
- ❖ Purificator: Small square of white linen, usually embroidered with a cross, used as a napkin to wipe the rim of the chalice during the reception of the wine at the Eucharist and to clean the chalice during the ablutions [from Latin, *purificare*, make clean].
- ❖ "Varmint spoon": Ornate pierced spoon, sometimes called a "critter getter" used for removing foreign articles from a chalice; in reality, it is used where a communicant has dropped a wafer into the consecrated wine when communicating by intinction. The holes in the spoon allow the wine to drain back into the chalice and the wafer can then be consumed from the spoon; it sure beats sticking your fingers into the cup.
- ❖ Veil: At the Eucharist, the square of material in liturgical colors matching the altar cloths and vestments; used to cover the chalice and paten, host and pall which make up a vested chalice.
- ❖ Vested chalice: The "stack" consisting, from bottom to top, of the chalice, paten, host, pall, and corporal, all of which are topped with the burse, which is found on the altar prior to the celebration of the Eucharist.

## The Liturgy

- ❖ The Holy Eucharist has two parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Table. The

word Liturgy means “the work of the people. The Liturgy of the Word includes the Collect for Purity, Collect of the Day, Scripture readings. The Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, Hymn, Gospel, Sermon, Nicene Creed, Intercessions, Confession and The Peace. The Liturgy of the Table begins with the Offertory. During this time the Priest/Deacon prepares the altar. A corporal (small table cloth) is placed on the Altar. The Chalice, and Paten , Ciborium (bread box) and Cruets are also placed on the table. The Priest/Deacon place the “bread” on the Paten and pour Wine (as did Jesus at the Last Supper) and small amount of water (which symbolizes the water which poured out of Jesus side at the time of the Crucifixion) into the Chalice.

- ❖ Now begins a four-fold pattern of “taking the bread”, “giving thanks”, “breaking the bread” and “giving” it to the people. The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist ) including the Consecration of the Bread and Wine reminds us of God’s purposes in creation, God acting for our salvation, the death and resurrection of Christ and Jesus’ words at the Last Supper.
- ❖ During this time the Priest blesses the bread and wine and invites the congregation to take part in receiving the body and blood of Christ.

### **Role of the Eucharistic Minister**

- ❖ Help in leading the worship service of the Church
- ❖ Assist in the distribution of the wine or bread to the Communicates, a representative of Christ.
- ❖ To respond/participate in the Diocesan mission statement: *‘to be the passionate presence of Christ for one another and the world we are called to serve.*
- ❖ Be present and aware of each person receiving Communion.
- ❖ Be sensitive that this is a “Holy” and spiritual moment for each person.
- ❖ Reach out to each person spiritually with Love and the Light of Christ.

### **What to do when presenting the Chalice**

- ❖ Say quietly with reverence and love one of the following depending upon local practice:
  - The blood of Christ the cup of salvation.
  - The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful. (sometimes used for Rite I.)
  - For those who intinct one of the following:
    - Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation
    - Body and Blood of Jesus Christ
    - Body and Blood of Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.
- Wiping and rotating the cup
- ❖ How to hold/present the Chalice to the Communicate. (Demonstrate the various methods.)
  - Hold the Chalice by both the stem and the cup. Hold it gently so that you can guide the Chalice to the individual’s mouth
  - or allow
  - The communicate to take the Chalice
  - To hold the Chalice with you
  - or lower the Chalice for those who intinct
  - or you intinct and place the bread in the person’s mouth
- ❖ Instruct what to do if:
  - wine is spilled

bread is dropped in the cup  
there is no wine in the cup

- ❖ What to do when the communicate does not take the Chalice
  - Say The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation
  - Allow the communicate the opportunity to touch the cup

### **Preparing yourself before the service.**

- ❖ Take time before the service either at home or in the Church for this ministry. Spend time in quiet and reflecting on your ministry and the meaning of the Eucharist.
- ❖ *A Prayer Before Receiving Communion (from the BCP)*  
Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever, Amen.

### **How to proceed with Licensing**

- ❖ In addition to the training received today the participant's clergy person should conduct training in the customs of the individual parish.
- ❖ The Training Leader should give each participant a Certificate of Participation.
- ❖ A copy of the certificate should be given to his/her clergy person. The clergy person will then submit a Request for License form to the Bishop. The License will be mailed to the parish and is valid until Advent 1 of the third year following the training date.

### **Conclude with:**

- ❖ A Psalm and or short scripture passage
- ❖ Read a prayer (the one below or one of your choice)  
Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to *you*, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly *yours*, utterly dedicated *to you* ; and then use us, we pray , *as you will*, and always to *your* glory and the welfare of *your* people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (Prayer of Self Dedication for the BCP)
- ❖ All say the Lord's Prayer
- ❖ Benediction (one below or one of your choice)  
Glory to God whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to him from generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen  
(Ephesians 3:20, 21)

**Thank everyone for coming and wish them God Speed.**

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The Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Central New York