Dear Deacons,

While it is permissible for deacons to receive Communion under both kinds (*GIRM* #283) it was felt that doing so could cause confusion among the faithful as to the role of the deacon at the altar. As ministers of the chalice, when Holy Communion is offered to the faithful in the form of the Sacred Host only, the question arises, as minister of the chalice, whom is the deacon serving?

After consultation with the Office of Worship and a review of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (see below)* we are changing the instruction regarding deacons’ reception of Holy Communion while serving at Mass.

Effective immediately, Deacons in the Archdiocese of Louisville are to receive Holy Communion in the form of the Sacred Host only, until the time when restrictions on distribution from the chalice are changed.

Although deacons assisting at Mass would normally receive Holy Communion under both kinds, during this time of pandemic guidelines when no “communal” chalice is being used, deacons are to receive only the Sacred Host, so as not to confuse their role with that of celebrating or concelebrating priests, who either receive the Precious Blood from an individual chalice or via intinction.

The principal celebrant and concelebrants must receive under both kinds.

* *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* #248: “… the principal celebrant receives Communion under both kinds in the usual way … and the other concelebrants should do the same.”
* *Redemptionis Sacramentum* #98: “The Communion of Priest concelebrants should proceed according to the norms prescribed in the liturgical books, always using hosts consecrated at the same Mass and always with Communion under both kinds being received by all of the concelebrants.”

In ordinary circumstances, Communion under both kinds is *permitted* but not *required* for others. There is no precept binding the laity or non-celebrating priests, or other clerics to receive the sacrament under both kinds.

* *GIRM* #283: “In addition to those cases given in the ritual books, Communion under both kinds is *permitted* for: a) Priests who are not able to celebrate or concelebrate Mass; b) the Deacon and others who perform some duty at the Mass …”
* *GIRM* #283 also states, “The Diocesan Bishop may establish norms for Communion under both kinds for his own diocese.”

Please direct any questions to Deacon Denny Nash Director of the Office of the Diaconate or Dr. Karen Shadle Director of the Office of Worship.

Deacon Denny Nash

Director of the Diaconate Archdiocese of Louisville

1200 S Shelby Street

Louisville, KY 40203-2627

Office: 502-636-0296

dnash@archlou.org