

Holy Spirit Parish
January 2008

Dear Eucharistic Ministers to Sunrise Cottages, Maple Manor and Rochester Healthcare,

Thank you for the ministry you give to our brothers and sisters unable to be with us for Eucharist on Sunday. May you always find the experience one of joy for yourselves, and also an invitation to continually grow in appreciation of God's self-gift in the Eucharist.

A couple of you have asked for a few "helpful hints" concerning this ministry. Especially, "What do I do when I get there?" Use the following as suggestions. Feel free to pass along other hints you think others may find helpful.

- On entering the resident's room, it is helpful to identify yourself. "Good morning, N; I am N.N. from Holy Spirit Parish."
- "Would you like to receive Communion this morning?" They may have something more to say in response, or they may simply say yes.
- Invite them to pray the Lord's Prayer with you. (See the attached sheets. These come from the booklet, "Communion of the Sick." If you would like your own copy of the booklet, let Mary Margaret know and she will see that you get one.)
- Then, "This is the Lamb of God, etc." Pray the response, too. Some will join you; others will not. If they do not respond 'Amen', you should say it.
- If someone is unable to receive communion, please give them a blessing.
- In place of the prayer given after communion, you might just put your hand on the person's head and say something like, "Gracious God, we thank you for all your gifts, especially for the gift of yourself in the Eucharist. I thank you, too, for the gift of the life of N.N. Grant him/her peace of mind and health of body, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- If a host should fall on the floor or a resident spit it out, please wrap it in a kleenex and return it to Mary Margaret.

At the sign of the cross, trace the cross on their forehead. They have become used to this and will respond well. It is always a good way to both bring closure to the brief service and to leave the person. If you have brought bulletins with you, leave one with the resident, at least those who can see enough to read.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Margaret at 280-0638 or marymarg@holyspiritrochester.org or Fr. Don at 280-0638 or dschmitz@holyspiritrochester.org

May you know ever more deeply God's love for you and those whom you visit.