



# DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

## Office of Liturgy and Worship


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### MEMORANDUM

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To: All Priests, All Deacons, All Parishes  
Cc: Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD  
From: Luis Espinoza   
Re: ***Distribution of Holy Communion and Names of Ministers***  
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016; *Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

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“The faithful should normally receive sacramental Communion of the Eucharist during Mass itself, at the moment laid down by the rite of celebration, that is to say, just after the Priest celebrant’s Communion. It is the Priest celebrant’s responsibility to minister Communion, perhaps assisted by other Priests or Deacons; and he should not resume the Mass until after the Communion of the faithful is concluded. Only when there is a necessity may extraordinary ministers assist the Priest celebrant in accordance with the norm of law.”

– Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacrament,  
Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, no. 88

- If there are enough priests and deacons for the distribution of Holy Communion, then extraordinary ministers should remain in their pews and not exercise their appointment (cf. *RS*, no. 147)

#### **Proper Names of Ministers** (cf. *RS*, nos. 154, 155)

1. Minister of the Eucharist (Eucharistic Minister) – only a bishop or priest
2. Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion – bishop, priest, deacon
3. Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion – instituted acolyte, appointed laypersons

#### **Improper Names of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (cf. *RS*, nos. 156)

- Minister of Holy Communion
- Special Minister of Holy Communion
- Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
- Special Minister of the Eucharist

The **Office of Liturgy and Worship** is happy to be of assistance to parishes and to answer any questions related to the Sacred Liturgy.

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