



DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

Office of Liturgy and Worship

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, All Deacons, All Parishes
Cc: Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
From: Luis Espinoza, Director 
Re: **Purification of Sacred Vessels** and **Minister of Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist**
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016; *Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle*

Purification of Sacred Vessels

“The Priest [...] standing at the altar or at the credence table, purifies the paten or ciborium over the chalice, then purifies the chalice in accordance with the prescriptions of the Missal and wipes the chalice with the purificator. Where a Deacon is present, he returns with the Priest to the altar and purifies the vessels [...] Moreover a duly instituted acolyte assists the Priest or Deacon in purifying and arranging the sacred vessels either at the altar or the credence table.”

– Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacrament,
Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, no. 119

A priest, deacon or an instituted acolyte are the only ministers that may purify the sacred vessels. It is never appropriate for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to assist with the purification of the sacred vessels. (cf. *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, nos. 163, 183, 192)

Minister of Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist

“The minister of exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and of eucharistic benediction is a priest or deacon; in special circumstances, the minister of exposition and reposition alone without benediction is the acolyte, extraordinary minister of holy communion, or someone else designated by the local ordinary; the precepts of the diocesan bishop are to be observed.”

– *Code of Canon Law*, can. 943

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