



Office of the Bishop

## Diocese of Richmond

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May 10, 2023

Dear Brothers,

Now that significant time has passed since the end of most of the pandemic-related restrictions in the diocese, and we have largely seen the end of the flu season, it is an appropriate time to consider granting the faculty for priests to distribute Holy Communion under the form of wine during the celebration of Mass.

Where Mass is celebrated in diocesan churches, churches of religious communities, and at celebrations with small groups, priests may choose whether or not to reintroduce the distribution of the Precious Blood. After consultation with parish staff and advisory bodies, a parish may choose to return to the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds at one, all, or none of the parish Masses. This would be done by the celebrants, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.

However, before this reintroduction, the clergy and faithful of a parish or other community should be formed appropriately to understand why the chalice is being reintroduced, or not, within a given community. Prior to the reintroduction of the distribution of Holy Communion from the Chalice, everyone should review the notes provided:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/norms-for-holy-communion-under-both-kinds>.

Since a few years have passed since restrictions have been in place, Pastors should consider having training sessions and conclude these sessions with a commissioning of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, prior to the reintroduction of distributing Holy Communion from the chalice. For resources, or if you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Office of Worship | Catholic Diocese of Richmond [worship@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:worship@richmonddiocese.org)

With my gratitude for your leadership and ministry, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout  
Bishop of Richmond