



## PC · COMMON PASTORAL VISITS

# Holy Communion Visit

This self-study is designed to help you understand the theology, purpose, and practical process of administering Holy Communion during a pastoral visit (homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to attend a divine service). It is rooted in reverence for the sacrament and faithfulness to Christ's command.



*Scan the QR code for District Apostle Schnabel's video on Holy Communion visits.*

## THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you." John 6:53***

- Holy Communion is essential to Christian life and preparation for Christ's return.
- In the sacrament, we experience the real presence of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice.
- The consecrated bread and wine are truly joined with His body and blood, manifesting the real presence of Christ and His sacrifice in the sacrament (epiclesis).
- Holy Communion is a meal of remembrance, profession, fellowship and the future (Catechism 8.2.8-11).

## QUESTIONS FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. How does belief in the real presence of Christ in communion shape the way you approach a Holy Communion visit?

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2. What dangers arise if Holy Communion is treated as symbolic only or as a routine ritual?

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## WHY HOLY COMMUNION VISITS MATTER

Pastoral Responsibility:

- Not all members are able to attend a divine service due to illness, age, or circumstances.
- The Church provides a dignified and reverent means for these members to receive the sacrament.

Pastoral Assurance:

- The setting may change, but the meaning and sanctity of the sacrament do not.
- Communion visitation affirms that:
  - No member is forgotten
  - Christ's presence reaches every soul
  - The Church remains united even when physically separated

## QUESTION FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. How does communion visitation reflect the heart of Christ as the Good Shepherd?

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## LITURGICAL STRUCTURE OF A HOLY COMMUNION VISIT

A Holy Communion visit should follow, as closely as possible, the structure of a divine service, adjusted for time and circumstance.

### Preferred full format

When time and conditions allow, the following order is encouraged:

1. Invocation
2. Opening Prayer
3. Bible verse and brief service summary (optional but encouraged)
4. Lord's Prayer
5. Absolution
6. Eucharistic Prayer
7. Consecration
8. Dispensation of Holy Communion
9. Prayer of Thanksgiving
10. Benediction

There is an option to omit the consecration during a visit, due to extreme circumstances, provided that the priest who officiated at the preceding Sunday service consecrated the elements with the intention that one or more of the wafers be reserved for use at future visits. However, the full format *including consecration* is preferred whenever Holy Communion is celebrated during visitation.

### QUESTIONS FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. Why is maintaining a familiar liturgical structure comforting and spiritually grounding during visitation?

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## CONSECRATION: THE HEART OF THE VISIT

The preferred practice is in consecrating the wafer during the visit, which allows the member to hear Christ's words:

*"This is My body which is broken for you. This is My blood of the new covenant given for many for the remission of sins. Eat and drink! Do this in remembrance of Me."*

### Why this matters:

These words:

- proclaim the Holy Spirit's work in the joining together of Christ's body and blood with the wafer and bringing us into the presence of the cross (epiclesis).
- invite participation in faith.
- facilitate a deeply personal and tender encounter with our Savior while using His words.

### QUESTION FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. How do the words of consecration deepen faith beyond the physical elements themselves?

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## CONDUCT

### Pace and presence

Holy Communion should never be rushed, whether in church or during a visit. Avoid anything mechanical or routine in tone or action. Your attitude should cultivate an environment that reflects:

- reverence
- calm attentiveness
- pastoral warmth
- awareness of Christ's presence

Practical reminders:

- Speak clearly and deliberately.
- Allow for moments of silence.
- Be attentive and responsive to the emotional and physical condition of the member.

#### QUESTIONS FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What behaviors or habits might unintentionally diminish the reverence of the sacrament?

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2. What personal habits of prayer and preparation should you cultivate before dispensing Holy Communion?

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## UNITY WITH THE CONGREGATION

Even during a private visit, Holy Communion is:

- A continuation of the Church's communal celebration.
- A visible sign that the member remains part of the body of Christ.

#### QUESTIONS FOR INTROSPECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. In what ways do communion visits affirm that the member remains part of the congregation?

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2. How can you help the wider congregation remain mindful of those receiving communion through visitation?

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## SUMMARY FOR A HOLY COMMUNION VISIT

Remember these guiding truths:

- Holy Communion visits are not a lesser celebration of the sacrament.
- The full liturgy is preferred whenever possible.
- Consecration during the visit is strongly encouraged.
- Reverence, dignity, and thoughtful pacing are essential.
- Every visit is an opportunity to witness Christ's nearness.