Eucharist Visitors Commissioning

2013

1. Persons authorized to distribute Holy Communion in special circumstances should be commissioned by the minister in charge of a congregation at a principal celebration.

2. Initially, the minister should address the reasons for this ministry in the context of a sermon, and those who are about to be commissioned should be prayed for during the Prayers of the People. At an appropriate time in the celebration those so chosen should come forward and stand before the congregation.

3. The suggested form:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our brothers and sister, N. and N. are to be entrusted with the administration of the Holy Communion in the name of God and of this congregation to those who are unable to be present at principal celebrations of the Eucharist.

N. and N. in this ministry, you must be examples of Christian Living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and hope. Remember that though we are many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup.

As Eucharistic Visitors, therefore, be especially observant of the Lord’s command to love your neighbor. For when he gave his body as food to his disciples, he said to them, “This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have love you”.

The celebrant than asks the candidates these questions:

Officiant: Are you resolved to undertake the office of Eucharistic Visitor in order to build up Christi’s Body, the Church?

Candidate: I am

Officiant: Are you resolved to administer the Holy Communion with the utmost care and reverence?

Candidate: I am

The celebrant asks all to stand and the candidates to kneel

Dear Friends, let us pray with confidence to the Father; let us ask God to bestow a blessing on these persons chose to be Eucharistic Visitors.

(pause for silence)
Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of your family, bless our brothers and sisters, N. and N. May they faithfully give the wonderful Holy Sacrament to your people. Strengthened by this sacrament, may they come at last to the heavenly banquet and stand with angels and archangels in adoration through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN