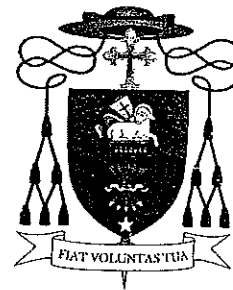


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Diocese of Penang

11 February 2013 (**Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**)

Dear Reverend Father (Parish Priest) - Diocese of Penang

Appointment of Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion

The faculty is granted to all Parish Priests in the Diocese of Penang to appoint and designate suitable persons to distribute Holy Communion in their parishes and on specific occasion when there is genuine necessity to do so.

The following norms are to be followed in appointing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:-

There must be a genuine need for such a ministry. A need exists when Ordinary Ministers (Priests and Deacons) are not available or a sufficient number of them are not present to respond to the faithful requesting Communion within a short period of distribution.

When such a need exists, the Parish Priest may select and appoint men and women, to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for their own parishes.

Those chosen to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to be mature persons thirty years of age or older, confirmed, leading an exemplary Christian life and so recognized and respected by the faith community.

The Priest has the responsibility of providing instruction for both the Candidates for this ministry and those to whom they will minister to ensure acceptance, understanding and appreciation of the ministry.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who function on a regular basis in their own Parish should be appointed either for a specific period of time, generally three years, and renewable.

The distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound is to be considered a special and distinct ministry. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be taught to see their role as sharing in the Church's ministry to the sick after the manner of Jesus.

The Parish Priest is responsible for the continued Spiritual growth of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and it is recommended that they be formally commissioned in a ceremony witnessed by members of the faith community.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Sebastian Francis