

## DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

### LITURGICAL POLICY

#### IV. LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

To guide these ministries the following general policies exist:

1. Lay persons are to be invited to become ushers, lectors, acolytes and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion according to pastoral need. All ministries should be for a definite period of time and subject to renewal upon evaluation.
2. These persons are to be carefully selected and properly trained before they begin to exercise one of these ministries. An opportunity for practice should be provided. Periodic convening, especially at the renewal of terms, should occur for refreshment of their duties and spiritual formation or renewal.
3. A person should ideally exercise only one ministry in any given celebration.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR LAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

1. **Acolyte (Server)** – Must be a Baptized Catholic and have received First Communion. The minimum age is left to the discretion of the pastor but must be based upon pastoral need and individual maturity. Their period of service is left to the discretion of the pastor.
2. **Reader (Lector)** – Must be a Baptized Catholic and have received First Communion. For parish Masses, these ministers must be at least high school age and possess the requisite maturity and judgment to carry out the duties of the ministry. For Masses with children, exceptions may be made in regards to the age. Their period of service is left to the discretion of the pastor.
3. **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** – Must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic at least 18 years of age. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to receive a commission from the bishop for a period of five years. The pastor / pastoral coordinator is to make this request in writing to the

Bishop. After that time, it must be renewed by an additional written request from the pastor. This ministry is suppletory and is exercised only when the ordinary ministers (ordained) are absent or insufficient. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may also bring communion to the sick. No one may bring Holy Communion to the sick without being a trained Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. They should be trained in the correct method of transporting a pyx. When the pyx needs purification, they should take it to a priest or a deacon.

These requirements do not apply to the formal instituted ministries such as instituted acolyte and instituted reader which have their own requirements within Universal Law.

March 2016