

A NOTE ON RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Parishioners,

I wanted to share with you a sentiment that has been recurring to me recently while distributing Holy Communion. It is quite moving for me as a priest to see you "crowded around the altar," many upon your knees, as the music unfolds and I give each of you Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist.

This sentiment is especially strong when couples kneel side by side, or when families or mothers kneel with gaggles of children clutched about them and in their arms, the little children looking up with anticipation in their innocent eyes to the day when they too will be privileged to taste the Sacred Host.

Your closeness to one another before the altar is a striking image, and it is something that seems diminished in the common system of filing up in two lines. It is hard to express this in words, but you seem even more united in that humble yet dramatic gesture of kneeling side by side before the splendor of the altar of Almighty God.

My friends, we have an opportunity at our two little churches to recapture the sublimity of this moment, despite its virtual disappearance from so many parishes. So I ask you to consider this classic Catholic posture and manner of receiving the Holy Eucharist. It is somehow much deeper in import than any of us might truly appreciate...

-Father de Rosa