

surplice (or alb) and white stole. If the celebrant of one of the low Masses (permitted by the local Ordinary) is to give Communion afterward, he may do so in the Mass vestments without leaving the sanctuary. In any event, there must be a moral union between the Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion which follows.¹³

Holy Communion may not be distributed at any other hour on Holy Thursday, either in the morning or in the afternoon. Moreover, since the reception of Communion is limited to the evening Mass or Masses and the time immediately thereafter, Holy Communion may not be given in any church or oratory where Mass is not celebrated. The only exception is in favor of those in danger of death, as indicated below.

Consecration of Particles

It is of the greatest importance that all the Sacred Hosts distributed at the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper should be consecrated at *that* Mass.¹⁴ The reason for this is explained by Pope Pius XII in the encyclical *Mediator Dei*: "That it may be more evident that by receiving Holy Communion the faithful take part in the sacrifice." The same Pontiff, recognizing that on some occasions this ideal must yield to other needs, adds: "While the Church makes concessions in her motherly desire to meet the spiritual needs of her children, these on their part must do all in their power to conform to what the liturgy recommends and, unless there is some reasonable cause to the contrary, do everything that may clearly manifest at the altar the living unity of the Mystical Body."

These concessions, allowing the distribution of Holy Communion with pre-consecrated Hosts or outside of Holy Mass, are not applicable on Holy Thursday. Nothing should prevent the

13. It goes without saying that it would be an abuse to omit the distribution of Holy Communion at the proper time of Mass and to give Communion *only* afterward.

14. The rubrics also require the hosts for the Good Friday service to be consecrated at the Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

faithful on this day from receiving Holy Communion *ex hac altaris participatione*.¹⁵

Good Friday

On Good Friday, Holy Communion may be distributed only at the solemn liturgical service of the afternoon, that is, after the deacon has transferred the Holy Eucharist from the place of reposition to the high altar. The only exception to this rule is in favor of those in danger of death, as indicated below. This means that Holy Communion may not be given before or after the liturgical service, or at any other hour of Good Friday, or in any place where the service is not celebrated.

Easter Vigil

The norm for the distribution of Holy Communion on Holy Saturday is the same as that indicated above for Holy Thursday — it may be given only at the Mass of the Easter Vigil, or immediately after and continuously with the Mass of the Easter Vigil.¹⁶ What is said for Holy Thursday is equally applicable to Holy Saturday, except that no permission may be given for any Mass on that day other than the Easter Vigil Mass.

Holy Communion may, therefore, be distributed only at the Easter Vigil Mass — or immediately following the Mass — from Hosts consecrated at that Mass. It may not be given Holy Saturday morning or afternoon, or in places where the Easter Vigil rite is not celebrated. The regulation is not affected by the anticipation, when permitted, of the Vigil in the early evening of Holy Saturday. In

15. Beyond question the faithful should be told this, and instructed concerning the meaning of the practice. It may not be out of place to add that consecration at Holy Mass of Hosts to be given to the faithful at that very Mass, while required by the rubric of Holy Thursday, should be observed on every other occasion, so far as possible. This may possibly create some difficulties in large parishes at the crowded Masses when it is difficult to estimate the number of communicants. There is, however, no difficulty in observing the norm set by the Holy See in most circumstances — in small parishes, at Masses with a limited number of the faithful, and in communities and institutions. In summary, every effort should be made to see that as many of faithful as possible receive Holy Communion from Hosts consecrated at the same Mass.

16. This remains unchanged from the law of the Code, canon 867, § 3, for Holy Saturday.