

ADMINISTERING THE HOLY COMMUNION BY INTICTION

Bishop Lawrence of Massachusetts, has issued the following letter to the clergy of his Diocese, under date of October 4th:

My dear Brother—

Acting upon medical advice and my own judgment, I am taking the liberty of suggesting to you the advisability of the administration of the Holy Communion by the method of Intinction, at least for the present. Experience has shown this method to be reverent and acceptable.

The cup should be shallow, and a very small amount of wine is needed: a tablespoonful for twenty-five to one hundred communicants is ample. Waters should be used.

In administration, the cup with the patten and wafers can be held in the left hand and fingers. The Priest dips the corner of a square wafer or the edge of a round one very slightly, not more than a quarter or an eighth of an inch, into the wine. If he does so with reasonable quickness, the wine is immediately absorbed, and the wafer can be placed on the palm of the hand of the communicant. Or the Priest gives a wafer to every person kneeling at the rail, then takes the cup, and as he passes along each communicant dips the wafer in the wine.

As each railful of communicants kneels, the whole of both Sentences is said before beginning to administer. Then as the Priest administers, he says the first half of both Sentences, the second half being omitted.

If there are communicants who object to Intinction and wish the old method, they can come forward after those who receive by Intinction have received. In case your congregation is not familiar with the method of Intinction, it will, of course, be advisable for you to make a short explanation at some convenient time in the service.

Yours faithfully,

William Lawrence,
Bishop of Massachusetts.