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To all Priests, Religious and Faithful:

ABOUT COMMUNION UNDER BOTH SPECIES

The peace of the Lord.

At the last General Assembly of the Priests on May 7 2009 Bishop Otsuka spoke about receiving communion under both species. Until now the faithful received the Body of Christ in their hands, dipped it on the Blood of Christ and ate it. On other parishes the faithful took the chalice placed on the altar or a table and drank from it by themselves. The liturgical rules of the Roman Missal specifically states that “it is not allowed to the faithful to take the consecrated bread and chalice by themselves, nor to pass it between them.” (Roman Missal rule 160). This is why we ask you to be careful in the following things (Redemptionis Sacramentum 94, 104).

In the Roman Missal two ways of receiving communion under both species are specified:

1.- Drinking the Blood of Christ from the chalice. The faithful after eating the Body of Christ stands before the minister holding the chalice. The minister should say “The Blood of Christ” and the faithful should answer “amen”, take the chalice and drink from it. After giving back the chalice to the minister the faithful goes back to his/her seat. The minister should clean the chalice with the purificatorium (RM 286).

2.- Receiving the Body of Christ with the Blood of Christ. The faithful stands before the Priest distributing communion, before receiving communion a patena is placed under the chin of the faithful receiving it. Next to the Priest distributing communion should be standing the minister holding the chalice with the Blood of Christ. The Priest takes the Body of Christ, dips it on the Blood of Christ and showing it to the faithful should say “The Body and Blood of Christ”. The faithful should answer “amen” before receiving it on the mouth. After receiving the Sacrament the faithful goes back

to his/her seat (RM 287).

In the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* published by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacrament number 18: “Christ’s faithful have the right that ecclesiastical authority should fully and efficaciously regulate the Sacred Liturgy lest it should ever seem to be anyone’s private property, whether of the celebrant or of the community in which the mysteries are celebrated.” We should see that all communities celebrate the Holy Mass accordingly to the rules of the Roman Missal.

May 13th 2009
Kyoto Diocese
Diocesan Curia
Fr. Yoshiro Kitamura