



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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Reverend Father Aidan Peter Rossiter, C.J.
Pastor
Saint Louis de Montfort Catholic Parish
5075 Harp Road
Santa Maria, California 93455-5183

Dear Father Rossiter:

I have noticed in recent years that during Confirmation liturgies, many of the Confirmandi, as well as Sponsors/Godparents, are not receiving Holy Communion during the liturgy. It is important to remember that the fullness of Initiation, begun in Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation, is expressed in the reception of the Eucharist, which nourishes and sustains believers to live out their missionary discipleship.

Pastors, and by extension catechetical leaders, are encouraged to ensure that candidates, parents, and sponsors are catechized about the proper disposition for receiving the grace of these Sacraments. A person who does not have a serious impediment to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation also does not have a serious impediment to sharing in Holy Communion. A person who does have a serious impediment to sharing in Holy Communion, also has a serious impediment to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

I would like to remind pastors of souls, of their responsibility to provide ample opportunities for candidates and sponsors to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the catechetical process.

For their part, the Sponsors/Godparents have a particular responsibility to model for their candidate the fullness of participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, which includes sharing in Holy Communion during the Confirmation liturgy.

In summary, it is expected that:

1. Reconciliation is integrated from the beginning and throughout the catechetical process in preparation for Confirmation
2. The Sponsors/Godparents, serving as role models, receive Holy Communion at the Confirmation liturgy
3. The newly Confirmed receive Holy Communion at the Confirmation liturgy

Be assured of my prayers for you and your parish communities.

May Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, grant you peace and joy,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Cc: Director of Religious Education
Confirmation Coordinator