

2017-07-30, Series on the Mass, Part 83

*Purification of the Chalice and Paten*

The purification of the chalice and paten takes place after the distribution of communion. At the end of communion, the priest takes the communion paten from the server and returns to the altar with the ciborium and paten. He places them on the corporal and genuflects if there are hosts left in the ciborium. The ciborium is covered and a veil placed on it, then it is placed in the tabernacle. The priest genuflects again before closing the tabernacle door, then closes the door, veils the tabernacle, and returns the center altar card to its place in front of the tabernacle. These ceremonies show forth the great respect one should have for the Blessed Sacrament since it is truly our Lord present among us. The priest then takes great care to purify the paten into the chalice and also any empty ciboria that contained the Body of our Lord. Every particle of the host and each drop of the Precious Blood must be consumed by the priest.

The purification of the paten and ciborium are done with a dry purification using the index finger or thumb, wiping the particles into the chalice. The priest then holds the chalice at an angle so the server can first pour the remainder of the wine in the cruet into the chalice. Wine is used since it more readily absorbs and dissolves the particles of the host and dilutes the drops of the Precious Blood in the chalice. While the server is pouring the wine, the priest says the prayer: "Grant, O Lord, that what we have taken with our mouth, we may receive with a pure mind: and that from a temporal gift it may become for us an eternal remedy." Whatever were the dispositions of the communicant, he received Our Savior in him. If he did not receive Him with a pure soul, then the reception is without grace. But for those who do receive Him with a pure mind, He becomes a source of life eternal. Life eternal already begins here below with our union with Christ, and with our devout communions we obtain the necessary help to achieve our final goal. Communion is not an ordinary food: absorbed by our mouth, it nourishes our soul.

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