

# Formation Corner

July 17-18, 2010

*Should a Catholic receive Eucharist in a Lutheran Church?* Recently someone asked me this question. The person attended a funeral in a Lutheran Church and was wondering if it was appropriate. Other Catholics were going to communion; what should a person do?

To begin, we might first ask what a Lutheran thinks. For a Lutheran, the real presence of Christ traditionally is not in the elements of bread and wine. The real presence of Christ is united with the elements by some mystery and each person who receives, does receive the body and blood of Christ. (The bread and wine however do not actually become the body and blood of Christ.) In order to receive, a person should be baptized. Thus any baptized person who accepts that Christ somehow is present in the Eucharist may receive in the Lutheran Church. In particular, the ELCA would use the term "open communion;" all are welcome to receive.

As a Catholic, we believe that the elements of bread and wine actually become the Body and Blood of Christ. Real presence is not just that Christ is united with the elements and us, but that the real presence is in the elements fully and completely. When we say "Amen," we are saying that we believe this truth in faith. Thus for a Catholic, if receiving Eucharist in the Lutheran Church, we are denying that we believe in this form of real presence. We are changing our belief or we are imposing a belief on the Lutheran Church that they do not share. While we are united by a common Baptism, we are not united in our understanding of Eucharist.

The answer to the question—should a Catholic receive Eucharist in the Lutheran Church— is NO. Until we share an understanding of Eucharist, we should respectfully choose to acknowledge this difference and refrain from joining in the reception of Eucharist when we are in the Lutheran Church—even though the Lutheran pastor may welcome us to join them at the table of their church.

**Website Suggestion:** [www.svdpplover.com](http://www.svdpplover.com)

A Mass of Thanksgiving for a new Bishop is scheduled at St. Joseph Parish on Monday, August 23, at 8:00 a.m. Please consider attending this Mass of Thanksgiving.

The Mass of Installation for Bishop Designate Callahan will be on August 11 at 2:00 p.m. I am planning to attend. Together we will continue to pray for his spiritual readiness to undertake his duties as Bishop of La Crosse.

A wish of God's peace is extended to the family and friends of Ted Pirog whose funeral occurred last Monday. May our prayers assist the comfort and consolation offered by God to those who mourn.

If you have a question about the Catholic Faith, please consider writing it down and submitting it either in the collection box or dropping it off at the Parish Office. I

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will try to answer submitted questions in the Formation Corner as soon as possible.

I again offer a reminder of the availability of a Mass on Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. Please consider making this Mass part of your weekly routine.

The annual Diocesan Appeal information will be arriving shortly. Please consider your donation to assist in meeting the new target. It will be announced as soon as it is received.

July is racing forward—hope you are enjoying the opportunities that summer is allowing!

Have a good week!

**Goodsearch/Goodshop.com**

2010 YTD—07/14 - \$27.24/\$1.06. Search and Shop for St. Joseph Parish—Thank you!

**\*\* July \*\***

## **Holy Father's Prayer Intentions:**

General: That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.

Mission: That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centers, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Seventeenth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**

**Genesis 18:20-32  
Colossians 2:12-14  
Luke 11:1-13**

Together In Faith  
Together In Faith

