

## 'TEST YOUR FAITH' QUIZ FOR ADULTS

November 1, 2020

### THE MINISTRIES OF GOD'S WORD, OF THE EUCHARIST & OF ALTAR SERVICE

Msgr. Pat Stilla

*(Scroll down to pages 2 & 3 for the correct answers)*

- T  F 1. Parish Ministries now exist in the Church because of the shortage of Priests.
- T  F 2. In a Parish, Deacons are ordained to displace most of the other Parish Ministers.
- T  F 3. Parish Ministers are mandated for a specific but renewable period of time for service in one's own Parish.
- T  F 4. Ministers of Service are mandated by the Bishop to be Ministers, in all the Parishes within the Diocese.
- T  F 5. Proclaiming God's Word as a 'Lector' or 'Minister of the Word' is of prime importance to the Liturgy because it is one way that God speaks to His people.
- T  F 6. Parishioners can request to become 'Lectors' in our Parish at the age of 16.
- T  F 7. 'Lectors' or 'Ministers of the Word' are normally not permitted to publicly read the Gospel at Mass.
- T  F 8. Eucharistic Ministers not only distribute Holy Communion at Mass but can also bring the Eucharist to those in hospital or at home who cannot come to Mass.
- T  F 9. A person's last Holy Communion before death is called 'Holy Viaticum' because it is meant to accompany the person on the way to eternal life.
- T  F 10. The small golden container used to bring Holy Communion to the sick after Mass looks like a small watch case and is called a 'Pyx'.
- T  F 11. Those who wish to bring Communion to the Sick must purchase their own 'pyx'.
- T  F 12. When mandated and in the absence of a priest or deacon, 'Ministers of the Word' or 'Eucharistic Ministers' can officiate at a Sunday Service without Mass.
- T  F 13. Another term used to describe altar servers is, 'Ministers of the Altar'.
- T  F 14. In our Cathedral Parish, boys and girls can request to become altar servers after they have completed Grade 5.
- T  F 15. Ministers of the Altar can continue to serve at Weekend and Weekday Masses only until the completion of their 18th birthday.

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

- 1. FALSE** At our Baptism we are mandated to minister to one another as followers of Christ. This means that it is our calling to bring God closer to His People and to bring God's People closer to God. We do this through the Lay Ministries. Bishops, Priests and Deacons are called to do the same not only by their Baptism but also by their Ordination. Therefore the shortage of Priests may have led to a re-activation of Lay Ministries in our Parishes but their existence is not dependant on the shortage or abundance of priests.
- 2. FALSE** Deacons are ordained to revitalize and animate Lay Ministries in a Parish and not to eliminate or replace them with their own Ordained Ministry.
- 3. TRUE** The mandate which can be granted by the Bishop or by the Pastor of the Minister's Parish usually lasts for a period of five years and is renewable for another five years or more depending on the needs of the Parish and the willingness of the Minister.
- 4. TRUE** This marks the difference between Parish Ministers who are mandated to serve within one's own Parish and, Ministers of Service who are mandated to serve in every Parish of the Diocese, if needed and, at the request of the Pastor of a particular Parish.
- 5. TRUE** God reveals Himself to His People through the Ministry of God's Word at the ambo (pulpit) and through the celebration of the Eucharist at the altar.
- 6. FALSE** This may be the case in other Parishes but in ours, all that is required is that the person has received the Sacrament of Confirmation which is usually celebrated in Grade 8 and at the age of 14 or 15.
- 7. TRUE** The Reading of the Gospel at Mass is normally reserved to the Ordained Bishop, Priest or Deacon. However, if a Minister of Service or a Lector or a Eucharistic Minister has been mandated to officiate at a Sunday or Weekday Service without Mass, then he/she is also permitted to publicly proclaim the Gospel at that particular Service.
- 8. TRUE** In this way nobody who wishes to receive Holy Communion but cannot because of illness, can still do so at home or in hospital. Those who serve in this Ministry are truly "Angels of Mercy".
- 9. TRUE** "Viaticum" is a word that is derived from three separate Latin words which together, literally mean "With you on the way". Viaticum can be given to a dying person by the Eucharistic Minister. If it is given by a Priest, it is a part of the Last Rites of the Church. These "Last Rites" are: Absolution (*with Confession, if the dying person is able to confess*), the Apostolic Pardon for Punishment due to Sin, the Anointing of the Sick, the administration of Holy Viaticum and the Final Blessing with Prayers for the Dying.

10. **TRUE** The word, "Pyx" comes from the Greek and Latin word "pyxis", which means a small box, container or vessel. Although most pyxes are usually gold coloured, it is not necessary that they be made of solid or plated gold.
11. **FALSE** In our Parish there are many pyxes available in the Sacristy for people to use and return after bringing Communion to the sick. However, if they wish, persons who regularly bring Communion to the Sick can purchase their own pyx.
12. **TRUE** In our Diocese, Ministers of Service can also officiate at these celebrations in any Parish or Mission in the Diocese.
13. **TRUE** Actually, this is the term used for "altar servers", that most accurately describes their Ministry.
14. **FALSE** In our Cathedral Parish, boys and girls are eligible to become altar servers after they have received their First Holy Communion, usually in Grade 2. Of course, every Parish can make its own specific regulations regarding the age of eligibility for Ministers of the Altar.
15. **FALSE** In our Parish, men or women can serve Mass for as long as they wish without any age limits. In fact, many altar servers in our Parish are adults who are active members of the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus. Some serve only at funerals, others, at weekend or weekday Masses and some are prepared to serve at all Masses or Services in our Church, if requested.

