COMMUNION BY EXTENSION IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO

Purpose is to:

1. Sustain the witness and Eucharistic charism of Episcopal congregations when the frequency of the presence of a priest to celebrate the Eucharist is not regular.
2. Develop a fuller understanding in the congregation about the Eucharist and the difference between celebrating Eucharist and receiving Communion.
3. Deepen a congregation’s link to and understanding of the priesthood.
4. Engage a conversation about other aspects of priesthood (besides sacramental) that are missing from the life of a congregation that does not have a priest in residence or visiting on a regular basis.

GUIDELINES:

1. Prayer for sending the blessed sacramental elements and the designated visitor (trained by priest and approved by Bishop) who will offer them to the recipient congregation (said following post-communion prayer):

Priest: Gracious and most merciful God, may your Holy Spirit which has blessed this bread and wine be with *N.* as she/he shares these consecrated elements with the people of …(Name of congregation receiving the consecrated elements). Through the Body and Blood of our Savior may they be strengthened to do your will, and may we too be reminded that we are joined to them.

Congregation: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

1. Before the service begins, the sacrament is placed on a corporal on a credence table covered with a white linen (but not a burse and veil). The designated visitor sits in the congregation during Morning Prayer and does not vest.
2. A licensed Worship Leader leads Morning Prayer from a stall in the choir, or from some other convenient place in front of the congregation. A licensed Lay Preacher offers a homily following the second reading or between the Prayer for Mission and General Thanksgiving.
3. Alms are appropriately collected during the hymn or anthem that follows the prayer for mission and precedes the intercessions and General Thanksgiving.
4. When Morning Prayer is concluded the Worship Leader and Lay Preacher sit with the Congregation.
5. Following the conclusion of Morning Prayer, the designated visitor moves the consecrated elements from the Credence table to the front center of the altar. From the congregational side of the altar she/he places the consecrated bread on a paten or in a ciborium (if not already done) and pours the consecrated wine into a chalice. Both should be placed on a corporal which has been spread on the altar. The lavabo is not used and the designated visitor should not go to the usual place of the priest.
6. The designated visitor stands in front of the altar facing the people and:

DV: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

DV: Let us pray.

Gracious and most merciful God, we give thanks for your abundant love, for us, and for all of your creation. As we prepare to receive this sacrament, we ask that your Holy Spirit fill our hearts and minds, that we might continue to grow in love and in faithfulness to your holy will. May this bread and wine, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, nourish our souls and bodies as we seek to serve you at all times and in all places. Amen.

We remember before you those who celebrated the Eucharist at … (here naming the congregation and the service at which the elements were consecrated) with whom we now share Communion through the reception of this sacrament.

Congregation: Though many, we are one body, because we all share in the one bread.

1. The designated visitor goes to the altar and receives Communion before administering to the Eucharistic Minister, and the congregation.
2. Note: If Eucharistic Visitors are being sent out from the congregation to visit shut-ins or those in the hospital, then the consecrated bread and wine for this should be placed in the Communion kits before distributing the elements to the congregation.
3. When all have received the Sacrament, any remaining elements should be placed on the credence table, covered by a white linen cloth for the remainder of the service. [Following the service the remaining elements should either be consumed or reverently scattered (bread) or poured down the piscina (wine).]
4. A hymn is sung
5. Eucharistic Visitors, if any, receive the Communion kits and are dismissed with a prayer of sending out.
6. The services concludes with a post communion prayer and dismissal:

All: Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DV: Let us bless the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

1. A Recessional Hymn may be sung.