



## Diocese of Salt Lake City

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### **Guidelines:**

#### **Proper way of Disposing of a Consecrated Host or Precious Blood**

- A. "If a host or any particle should fall, it is to be picked up reverently. If any of the Precious Blood is spilled, the area where the spill occurred should be washed with water, and this water should then be poured into the sacrarium in the sacristy." (GIRM No. 280)
- B. If the host is dropped on the floor when receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion, it should pick it up by the communicant or minister and consumed immediately.
- C. During the distribution to the elderly or infirm, if the communicant is unable to swallow (host is spit out or dropped from the mouth), the Host should be collected in a piece of linen and returned to the parish for proper disposal as described below.
- D. The process of dissolving the host in water may be used in special conditions such as a partially consumed host that may have fallen from a communicant's mouth or a host that was unintentionally dropped to a less than clean floor.
- E. To dispose of a host, the priest, deacon or eucharistic minister must dissolve it in water to the point where the host no longer has the appearance of bread. This may require that the host be broken up in small pieces prior to placing it in water. It is necessary to wait for the host to be fully soaked in water, out of respect for what once contained the presence of Christ and in order to avoid any danger or appearance of a host being discarded or profaned. However, once the host is saturated (within an hour) it must then be disposed of immediately in the sacrarium or in the earth as described in paragraph F.
- F. The liquid should be poured down the sacrarium (a special sink with a drain going directly into the ground, not the sewer). It should not be poured down a common sink. If such is not available, the liquid should be poured on the ground in a location that would not be walked over, such as behind a flower bed that is along a wall, at the foot of a statue or similar places.
- G. With respect to the presence of Christ, most theologians would hold that, although the host externally remains intact, the real presence would cease as soon as the host is fully soaked with water since from that moment the species is no longer exclusively that of bread.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ROME, MAY 24, 2005 (Zenit.org).- Father Edward McNamara, Professor of Liturgy at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University