

**24^a Domingo do Tempo Comun
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

I^a Leitura: First Reading:

Ezequiel / Sirach 27:30- 28:7

II^a Leitura: Second Reading:

Romanos / Romans 14:7-9

Evangelho: Gospel:

Mateus/Matthew 18:21-35



COLETAS-COLLECTIONS

Semana Passada/Last Week

Setembro/September 9-10, 2017

1st Coleta/Collection

N^a Sr^a de Fátima

Our Lady of Fátima

\$1,601

2nd Coleta/Collection

Ajuda de Furacão

Hurricane Assistance

\$1,902

Esta Semana/This Week

Setembro/September 16-17, 2017

1st Coleta/Collection

N^a Sr^a de Fátima

Our Lady of Fátima

2nd Coleta/Collection

Apoio do Fundo Clero

Clergy Benefit Fund

Próxima Semana/Next Week

Setembro/September 23-24, 2017

1st Coleta/Collection

N^a Sr^a de Fátima

Our Lady of Fátima

2nd Coleta/Collection

Necessidades de Paroquia

Parish Needs Fund

Did you remember to return your **CCD Registration Forms**? They are available at the entrances of the church, or call the parish office 978-532-0272.

Lembra-se de devolver os **formulários de registo CCD**? Eles estão disponíveis nas entradas da igreja, ou ligue para o escritório paroquial 978-532-0272.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY / PENSAMENTO DO DIA

We must carry out the will of God rather than our own. This is what we pledge to do in the "Our Father" which we recite every day. What a travesty it would be if after praying that God's will be done, we should carry out the will halfheartedly. Heavenly Father, let me curb my own desires and strive to discover Your will for me. Help me to do that will wholeheartedly in all things, for You have my best interests at heart. – *Saint Cyprian of Carthage*

Devemos realizar a vontade de Deus e não a nossa. É o que prometemos fazer no "Pai Nosso" que recitamos todos os dias. Que travestiria seria se depois de rezar que a vontade de Deus fosse feita, devemos levar a cabo a vontade de forma hostil. Pai celestial, deixe-me conter meus próprios desejos e me esforce para descobrir a Sua vontade para mim. Ajude-me a fazer isso de todo o coração em todas as coisas, pois Tu tens meus melhores interesses no coração. - *São Cipriano de Cartago*

Prayer List

All sick parishioners	All sick priests	Ringo Sousa
Olivia Silva	Kelly Quadros	David Tyrell
Maria Gil	Daniel Conde	Leia Ribeiro
Fr. Fernando Monteiro	Nursing Home Residents	Al Buccì
Jeanette Capela+	Mary Burke	London Mello
Marta Martins	José Lopes	Anthony Metrano
Dee Bernstrom	Joaquim Cabral	José Tavares
Frank Cappolino	Lucas Hernandez	Frank Shute
Maria Lima	Kathy Cahill	Millie Zastowsky
Jeffrey Santos	Laura Speliotis	Brandi Jackson
Manuel da Silva	Helda Medina	Ann Marie Couto
Terese Mynott	Greg Predki	Etelvina Silva
Sawas Jos. Demakes	Estefana Martinho	Isabelina Santos
Carlos DeAlmeida	Belmira Martins	Helio Ortins
Manuel Bettencourt	Melissa DaSilva	Thomas Pimenta
Jimmy daSilva	Linda Hyde	Olga Alves
Maria Rodrigues	Aaron Heroux	Vanessa Hogu
Joseph DeCotis	Micheline Vareika	Carlos Medeiros
Maria José Goncalves	Francisco Sousa	Molly LeDuc
Maria Conceição Neves	Cardoso Family	Maria Sousa
Manuel Silva	Leonardo DaSilva	Joseph Costanza
Michelle Correnti	Tresa Leclerc	Fatima Ortins
João Goncalves	Donaria Romalho	Maria Madalena
José Medeiros	Zelda Goncalves	Bill Gallant
Manuel Machado	Donna Stoven	Don White
Alexis Crisostomo	Matthew Marques	Orlanda Reis
Arnoldo Alberto	Laura DeMaio	Anna Carroça
Manuel & Deolinda Sylvia	Ann Wojca	Iliro Costa
Manuel & Maria Augusta Paiva	Maria Rita	Manuel Felix
Fatima, Sergio e Rodney Soares		Darren Santos
Maria Frias Silva	Gabriella M. deOliveira	Emelia Isidro
AnnMarie & Ruby Hill	Luisa Amaral	João Martinho
Mikey Santos	Maria Carroça	Natalia DaSilva
Eulalia Aguiar	Belmira Santos	Maryanne Pierce
Manuel Cunha	Mildred Justo	Paula Cristina Silva
Maria de Lurdes Silveira	Maria Terra	Arlindo Santos
Maria Joaquina Cabral	Manuel Furtado	Jacinto Figueiredo
Tammy Stevens	Dr. Larry McGuinness	Benjamin West
Jennifer Desrosiers	Fernanda Sousa	José Felizardo
Auzenda Alberto	Patrice Grande	Dorothy & Gary Tulchinsky
Manuel DaSilva	Maria Lucinda daSilva	Maria Rosa
Arturo Pinheiro		

If you have any changes to this list, please let us know. Se tiver quaisquer alterações nesta lista, por favor avise-nos.

PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS: UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 23	CCD Parent Meeting – 11am
October 1	First Day of CCD
October 8	Festa de Nossa Senhora Aparecida
October 11-13	Triduum of Our Lady of Fatima
October 11	Oratorio de Nossa Senhora de Fatima
October 14	Parish 42 nd anniversary
October 15	Festa de Nossa Senhora de Fatima

On Sunday, September 24 after the 9am Mass, we will have a **Coffee Hour** to gather and have fellowship with one another. If you plan to attend, please bring a food item to share such as pastry, breakfast cookies, muffins, danish, etc.

No Domingo, 24 de Setembro, após a Missa das 9h, teremos uma **Hora do Café** para reunir e ter companheirismo uns com os outros. Se planeja participar, traga uma comida para compartilhar, como biscoitos de pastelaria, café da manhã, bolinhos, etc.

Our Lady of Fatima Church
Mass Intentions / Intenções de Missa

Dias de Semana	Requisitado/Requested:
Segunda-feira/Monday - 9:00 AM	9/18
Antonio Sousa	esposa Delminda
Terça-feira/Tuesday - 9:00 AM	9/19
Deceased priests of our parish	
Quarta-feira/Wednesday	9/20
Nao haverá Missa / No Mass	
Quinta-feira/Thursday	9/21
Nao haverá Missa / No Mass	
Sexta-feira/Friday - 6:00 PM	9/22
Deceased priests of our parish	
Sábado/Saturday	9/23
9:00 AM	
Maria Elisabete Lonergan	Geraldina Felix
Antonio Figueredo e Elisa Brites	Geraldina Felix
Vanessa Cavaco	pais e irmaos
5:00 PM	
Maria Zolotas	Ondina Martinho
Manuel H. Cunha	esposa e filhos
Kenneth Manuel Ferreira e seu avo Manuel Antonio Silveira	familia
Sunday/Domingo	9/24
9:00 AM Missa em Ingles / English Mass	
Manuel Texeira Bettencourt, seus pais e sogros	Glorinda Bettencourt
Antonio Carroça	family
Maria Gomes e Maria Oliveira Goncalves	Joaquina Sa
Manuel do Amaral	esposa Maria
Manuel daCunha Santos	Maria e familia
Margarida e Manuel Pacheco de Melo	familia
11:30 AM – Missa em Português/Portuguese Mass	
José, Elmira, Charlie e Maria Santos	familia
Vanessa Cavaco	Maria daLuz Soares
Cliff Brasil	
Rosa Machado	
Ernesto Pinto	esposa e filhos
José Bettencourt	filha e netos
Antonio e Manuel Silva e Maria Alcina	Antonina Silva
6:00 PM – Missa em Português/Portuguese Mass	
Mass for all parishioners	

Bishop Fenwick Open House 2017: You are invited to the Open House on September 24 from 11:30am - 1:30pm. Fenwick is a co-educational, 9-12 Catholic High School located in Peabody, MA. Find out more at Fenwick.org.

Casa Aberta da Escola do Bispo Fenwick 2017: Está convidado para a Casa Aberta no dia 24 de Setembro das 11h30 às 13h30. Fenwick é uma escola secundária graus, 9-12, localizada em Peabody, MA. Saiba mais no Fenwick.org.

Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Fatima

Reminder:

CCD Parent Meeting
September 23 – 11am Parish hall

First Day of Religious Education
October 1

Lembrete:

Reunião de CCD para os pais
23 de Setembro - 11am no salão da Igreja

Primeiro dia da Educação Religiosa
1 de Outubro

Due to the special collection for Hurricane Harvey, our previously scheduled Parish Needs collection will be moved to September 23/24.

Devido à Coleta Especial de Furacão Harvey, a nossa coleta de necessidades paroquiais previamente agendada será movida para 23/24 de Setembro.

Our **knitting group** began on Monday, September 11 at 2pm. For more information, contact Linda Mendonça at 978-535-0109. All are welcome!

O **nosso grupo de fazer malha** começou de novo na Segunda-feira, 11 de Setembro, às 2 horas da tarde. Para informação, contatar a Linda Mendonça pelo telefone 978-535-0109. Todos são bem-vindos!

Portuguese Americans for Higher Education (PAHFE)

Fundraiser on September 29. Don't miss The Portuguese Kids in Peabody, MA with their brand new show, *I'm Not Yelling, I'm Portuguese!* Come out for a night of laughs and enjoy their unique comedy that highlights the funnier side of growing up Portuguese, and all for a great cause! The show will be held at the Holy Ghost Community Center, 20 Howley St. Peabody. Doors open at 7pm. Show starts at 8:30pm. Tickets are \$30 and include desserts donated by Dianne's Fine Desserts of Newburyport! A portion of the proceeds go toward PAHFE's scholarship fund. Limited amount of tickets available for purchase at the Holy Ghost Cultural Center.

Recrutamento de Fundos de **Educação para os Estudantes Portugueses para o Ensino Superior (PAHFE)** em 29 de Setembro. Não perca a oportunidade de ver o novo espectáculo das Crianças Portuguesas de Peabody, MA, "*I'm Not Yelling, I'm Portuguese!*" Saia por uma noite de risadas e desfrute de sua comédia única que destaca o lado mais divertido de crescer Português e tudo para uma ótima causa! O espectáculo será realizado no Centro Comunitário do Espírito Santo, 20 Howley St. Peabody. As portas abrem às 7pm. O espectáculo começa às 8:30pm. Os ingressos são \$30 e incluem sobremesas doadas por Dianne's Fine Desserts of Newburyport! Uma parte dos resultados vai para o fundo de bolsas de estudo da PAHFE. Quantidade limitada de ingressos disponíveis para compra no Centro Cultural do Espírito Santo.

Our Lady of Fatima Church

It's never too early to plan for Christmas! On Friday, December 1 at 7pm, the Reagle Music Theatre will present **Christmas Time** featuring music and a living Nativity. With more than 150 performers and a full orchestra, it is a show not to be missed. Tickets are \$50 and include the price of the ticket and transportation from the parish. A limited number of seats available. Please call the parish office to reserve your spot this week.

Nunca é muito cedo para planear o Natal! Na Sexta-feira, 1º de Dezembro, às 19 horas, o Reagle Music Theatre apresentará o **Tempo do Natal** com música e uma Natividade viva. Com mais de 150 artistas e uma orquestra completa, é um espectáculo a não perder. Os ingressos são de \$50 e incluem o preço do ingresso e o transporte para a freguesia. Um número limitado de lugares disponíveis. Se estiver interessado, ligue para o escritório paroquial para reservar o seu lugar nesta semana.

Bazaar Preparation: It's never too early to start planning and seeking out donations for our annual bazaar in November. When out shopping, please keep in mind items for our baskets, raffles, and baking ingredients. As always, thank you for your support.

Preparação do Bazar: Nunca é muito cedo para começar a planear e buscar doações para o nosso bazar anual em Novembro. Ao fazer compras, lembre-se das coisas para as nossos cestos, rifas e ingredientes para a cozinha. Como sempre, obrigado pelo seu apoio.

Lembre-se das palavras do Padre Daniel - diariamente rezar três Ave-Marias pelas vocações sacerdotais da NOSSA paróquia!

Remember the words of Fr. Daniel – daily pray three Hail Marys for priestly vocations from OUR parish!

Pray for our military. Remember our service men and women in your daily prayers! Pray for: Sgt. Shelly Dellolacono, Gregory Gratiano, Alex St. Pierre, Andrew Maio, Alex Ortins, Steven Goodridge and Marc E. Rodrigues-Davis.

Reze por nossos militares. Lembre-se dos nossos militares nas vossas orações! Reze por: Sgt. Shelly Dellolacono, Gregory Gratiano, Alex St. Pierre, Andrew Maio, Alex Ortins, Steven Goodridge e Marc E. Rodrigues-Davis.

Doctor Prescribed Suicide is dangerous for the elderly, the disabled, the terminally ill, the poor, and minorities. There will be hearings at the State House on September 26 about bills to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide, S.1225 and H.1194. We must show opposition! Please plan to attend at 10am or call the Committee Chair, Sen Jason Lewis, 617-722-1206, to express your opposition to these bills. Questions? Call Mass Citizens for Life at 617-242-4199 or check www.masscitizensforlife.org

Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Fatima

Thanks to all who worked so hard for our participation in the **International Festival** last weekend. We raised \$2,788 from the event. May the blessings of Our Lady be upon you!

Obrigado a todos que trabalharam para nossa participação na **Festa Internacional** no último fim de semana. Nós fizemos \$2,788 a partir do evento. Que as bênçãos de Nossa Senhora estejam com todos!

This week, the diocese-wide collection will support the health and well-being of our 614 Boston priests. Show your gratitude by giving generously to this week's **Clergy Health and Retirement Trust** collection. You may also make your gift online at clergytrust.org or simply text the word PRIEST to 56512 (msg. & data rates may apply).

Esta semana, a recolha de toda a diocese vai apoiar a saúde e o bem-estar dos nossos 614 padres de Boston. Mostra a sua gratidão, dando generosamente para a coleta da **Saúde do Clero no Fundo para o Benefício do Clero** esta semana. Também pode fazer a sua doação on-line em clergytrust.org ou simplesmente no texto a palavra PRIEST para 56512 (msg. & Taxas de dados podem ser aplicadas).

St. Anne Parish in Salem will be holding its Annual Bazaar on Saturday, September 23 from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, September 24 from 9am to 2pm. All are welcome to attend!

Greetings to Newcomers, Visitors and Parishioners: We welcome you to Our Lady of Fatima Parish. If you would like more information about entering more fully into our parish life and ministry, please complete the following and put it in the offertory basket.

Saudações aos recém-chegados, visitantes e paroquianos: Convidamos a Paróquia de Nossa Senhora de Fátima. Se quiser obter mais informações sobre como inserir mais plenamente em nossa vida paroquial e ministério, por favor preencha o seguinte e coloque-o no cesto do ofertório.

I would like / Gostaria:

- to become a Parishioner / para tornar-me um paroquiano
- to change my address / para mudar o meu endereço
- to receive offertory envelopes / para receber envelopes do ofertório
- to let the parish know of someone who is ill or homebound and would like to receive Communion / para deixar a paróquia sabe de alguém que está doente e não sai de casa e gostaria do receber a Comunhão

Name/Nome: _____

Address/ Endereço: _____

Phone / Telefone: _____

Email: _____

Our Lady of Fatima Church

Come join Mass Citizens for Life for the Mass. March for Life is Sunday, October 1 on Boston Common. The March is an opportunity to raise money for baby-saving pro-life groups across the state and to give witness to Life and remember the 1.5 million babies killed through legal abortion in the state. Join Cardinal Seán O'Malley and hundreds of pro-lifers as they March for Life. Questions? Call Mass Citizens at 617-242-4199 or visit

www.masscitizensforlife.org/2017marchforlife

Venha juntar-se a Cidadãos em Massachusetts para a Vida. A Marcha para a Vida é no Domingo, 1 de Outubro, em Boston Common. A Marcha é uma oportunidade de arrecadar dinheiro para grupos pró-vida que conservam os bebês em todo o estado e para testemunhar a Vida e lembrar os 1,5 milhões de bebês mortos por meio do aborto legal no estado. Junte-se ao Cardeal Seán O'Malley e centenas de profissionais da vida na Marcha Pela Vida. Questões? Ligue aos Cidadãos da Massachusetts em 617-242-4199 ou visite

www.masscitizensforlife.org/2017marchforlife

O Suicídio Prescrito pelo Médico é perigoso para os idosos, os deficientes, os doentes terminais, os pobres e as minorias. Haverá audiências na Casa do Estado em 26 de Setembro sobre as contas para legalizar o suicídio prescrito pelo médico, S.1225 e H.1194. Devemos mostrar oposição! Planeje participar das 10h ou convide o líder do Comitê, Sen Jason Lewis, 617-722-1206, para expressar sua oposição a essas contas. Questões? Ligue aos Cidadãos da Vida de Massachusetts no 617-242-4199 ou confira www.masscitizensforlife.org

The **Portuguese School of Peabody** begins October 2 with a mandatory orientation for parents and students at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 6pm. Classes will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30pm at the Church. The registration fee of \$25 will be waived if registration forms are submitted by September 25. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the School, please complete the application available at the entrances of the Church and return to Rosa Romano or Ivone Barreto. Also, anyone interested in adult Portuguese classes should contact them for more information. Please contact Rosa at 978-406-1047 or Ivone at 978-317-0184 or at: escolaportuguesadepeabody@gmail.com.

A **Escola Portuguesa de Peabody** começará no dia 2 de Outubro com orientação obrigatória para pais e alunos na Igreja Nossa Senhora de Fátima às 6pm. As aulas serão realizadas às Segundas e Terças das 5:30 às 7:30pm da noite na Igreja. A taxa de inscrição de \$25 será dispensada se os formulários de inscrição forem enviados antes de 25 de Setembro. Se estiver interessado em matricular seu filho na Escola, preencha o pedido disponível nas entradas da Igreja e volte para Rosa Romano ou Ivone Barreto. Além disso, se alguém estiver interessado em aulas de Português para adultos, entre em contato com elas para obter mais informações. Se tiver alguma dúvida, entre em contato com a Rosa no 978-406-1047 ou Ivone em 978-317-0184 ou de e-mail: escolaportuguesadepeabody@gmail.com

Have you considered "adopting a Carmelite Sister"?

September 16 & 17, 2017

Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Fatima

A **Paróquia de Santa Anna** em Salem, realizará o seu Bazar Anual no Sábado, 23 de Setembro das 9h às 17h e no Domingo, 24 de Setembro das 9h às 14h. Todos são bem vindos a participar!

My 10 Tithing Commandments:

1. I tithe because I love God and I love my neighbor. (2 Corinthians 9.7)
2. I tithe because I recognize that everything I receive is from God. (Psalm 23; 1 Corinthians 4:7)
3. I tithe because my gratitude to God leads me to give back a little of how much I receive. (Luke 17, 11-19)
4. I tithe because I accept God's word that I read in the Bible. (Mt 3.10, Luke 21: 1-4)
5. I tithe because I believe and trust in God the Father (Matthew 6, 25-31)
6. I tithe because the act of sharing will keep killing my selfishness. (Luke 12: 16-21; Pd 4.8)
7. I tithe because I believe in the Christian life in community. (Matthew 18:20)
8. I tithe because God, who alone is rich, does not want anyone in need. (Matthew 25:40)
9. I tithe because I like to live in freedom and joy. (John 14: 1-5; Mt 25:34)
10. I tithe because I want to see my community grow and my Church witness to the Gospel of Jesus throughout the world. (Matt. 28: 19-20, Mark 16:15)

Meu 10 Mandamentos do Dízimo:

1. Dízimo porque amo Deus e amo meu próximo. (2 Coríntios 9.7)
2. Dízimo porque reconheço que tudo que recebo é de Deus. (Salmo 23; 1 Coríntios 4: 7)
3. Dízimo porque a minha gratidão a Deus me leva a devolver um pouco o quanto que eu recebo. (Lucas 17, 11-19)
4. Dízimo porque aceito a palavra de Deus que leio na Bíblia. (Mt 3.10, Lucas 21: 1-4)
5. Dízimo porque acredito e confio em Deus Pai (Mateus 6, 25-31)
6. Dízimo porque o ato de compartilhar vai continuar matando o meu egoísmo. (Lucas 12: 16-21; Pd 4,8)
7. Dízimo porque acredito na vida Cristã em comunidade. (Mateus 18:20)
8. Dízimo porque Deus, que é rico, não quer que ninguém esteja em necessidade. (Mateus 25:40)
9. Dízimo porque eu gosto de viver em liberdade e alegria. (João 14: 1-5; Mt 25:34)
10. Dízimo porque quero ver a minha comunidade crescer e minha Igreja testemunhar o Evangelho de Jesus em todo o mundo. (Mt 28: 19-20, Marcos 16:15)

Já considerou "adotar uma Irmã Carmelita"?

May Our Lady of Light bless all those who honor her!

Que Nossa Senhora da Luz abençoe a todos que lhe a deem honra!

16 e 17 de Setembro, 2017

Our Lady of Fatima Church

Avoiding Embarrassing Situations Receiving Holy

Communion – excerpts from Pilot article by Father Roger J. Landry, Wednesday, August 23, 2017

I was recently making a retreat at a Monastery in the Catskills. At Sunday Mass, I was asked by the Chaplain to distribute the Precious Blood to the nuns and lay people in attendance. At one point there was a little delay as I was giving the Chalice; the priest Celebrant, distributing the Sacred Hosts, was having a brief conversation, inaudible to me, with two women in line.

After Mass, as I was heading to make my Thanksgiving, one of the women met me and told me how upset she was that the Chaplain had asked her adult daughter whether she was Catholic before giving her Holy Communion. "Do you know if she did anything to make the priest presume that she might not be Catholic," I asked, to which she replied, "I don't understand why he should even want to know. Aren't we all children of God? It was just so embarrassing."

"I'm really sorry you and your daughter were embarrassed," I said to her, "and please know that priests hate to embarrass anyone, especially at the sacred time of Holy Communion, but we have a holy duty with regard to Jesus' Body and Blood. If the way someone approaches to receive Communion raises a serious question as to whether the person is not Catholic, we have to ask."

It led to a tranquil conversation about the reasons for the Church's practice, about the reasons Holy Communion is given only to rightly disposed Catholics, about how priests generally approach these situations, and about how to help her daughter at Communion time so that she would not be asked again. The woman thanked me for spending the time with her and concluded, "Father, we just don't know these things. It would be great if the Church told us so that we could avoid these embarrassments."

Her sincere last words stuck with me. What I had conveyed to her was practical information that most Catholics know about how to receive Holy Communion, but to her it seemed to be a revelation. In some places Catechesis on Holy Communion is just not done as clearly as in others, sadly leaving parishioners in potentially embarrassing situations when they travel.

There are some basic things that Catholics need to know to avoid any embarrassment at Communion time. First, how should a Catholic receive? We should make a sign of reverence to Jesus (normally a profound bow at the waist or at least of the head while the person ahead receives), say "Amen" to the words "The Body of Christ." When someone doesn't say "Amen," doesn't open one's mouth, doesn't extend hands at all, or extends just one, or reaches for the host with thumb and index finger, or other such anomalies, the Minister may legitimately wonder whether the person is Catholic or has ever been trained properly to make first Communion.

Why would a Catholic priest ever risk embarrassing anyone at Communion time? The simple answer is because we're dealing with Jesus Christ and we love him. Just as we wouldn't hand our baby to a stranger or give our greatest valuables to someone who doesn't know how to handle them with care, we won't give Jesus to

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someone who has given us reason to doubt whether He will be treated with supreme reverence.

Many Catholic priests have made the sad discovery of hosts in Missalettes and in the pews. I also once had a converted Satan worshipper in New Bedford tell me how in the local coven they would desecrate hosts easily taken from area Churches whose Eucharistic Ministers were not vigilant.

We're not trying to embarrass anyone -- in fact, most of us hate to be in situations where we have to ask -- but we do have the basic duty out of love to guard the Eucharist. The Church clearly instructs us, "Special care should be taken to ensure that the host is consumed by the communicant in the presence of the minister, so that no one goes away carrying the Eucharistic species in his hand" (Redemptionis Sacramentum 92) In the early Church, St. Tarcisius died protecting the Eucharist from a bunch of thugs seeking to desecrate him, and one of the minimal requirements for a Minister of Holy Communion is a commitment to prevent Jesus from being desecrated, even at the risk of our life. And if we reluctantly have to risk hurting someone's feelings to fulfill that responsibility of love, we will. We must.

There are obviously better or worse ways to do this, but sometimes no matter how sensitive a priest is, the very fact that he does his job and asks whether someone is Catholic, or does not give Holy Communion to someone the Church clearly teaches should not receive, is deemed offensive.

Most often that flows because Jesus in the Eucharist is not regarded with adequate reverence. Some Catholics have such a soft image of Jesus that they behave as if He wouldn't possibly want not to be given in Holy Communion to our cousin who hasn't graced the inside of a Church in decades, or to non-Catholics or non-Christians who, not knowing any better, come to receive him just because they see everyone else doing so. Others treat the Eucharist like cake at a birthday party and deem that rules of hospitality should dictate that everyone who desires, no matter the circumstances, should get a slice.

Some pastors have also irresponsibly confused people by saying that, contrary to what canon law prescribes, all are welcome in the Communion line and that they would never under any circumstances refuse anyone Holy Communion.

The point is that we're not dealing with a thing, even with the holiest thing in the world. We're dealing, rather, with the Eternal Son of God. And though we want, as Jesus does, everyone to come into communion with Him and with us (1 John 1:3), the Church teaches that receiving Him in Holy Communion is not the first step in, but the fruit of, that communion of life. It is the consummation of the spousal union between Christ and his Bride the Church. And as we see in human relationships, if the order between entering the covenant and consummating it is inverted, what should be supremely enriching can in turn become harmful, spiritually and otherwise.

The Church's wisdom and practice with regard to Holy Communion are far from arbitrary rules of inclusion and exclusion but ultimately directed to the reverence and love of God and the salvation and sanctification of all.