

# Papal Communion Rules

from *National Catholic Register*,  
7/6/08, p. 5, by CSN

Receiving the Eucharist on the tongue while kneeling before the Pope has become the norm at papal liturgies, said Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies. While current norms allow the faithful to receive the Eucharist in the hand while standing, Pope Benedict XVI has indicated a preference for the more traditional practice, said the Vatican's liturgist.

Generally, at papal Masses, those receiving Communion from the Pope stand, and the majority choose to receive on the tongue. However, beginning at a Mass outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran on May 22, 2008, two ushers placed a kneeler in front of the altar and the chosen communicants *all knelt down and received the Holy Eucharist on the tongue.*

In an interview with the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, on June 26, Msgr. Guido said, "Kneeling and receiving Communion on the tongue highlights the truth of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, helps the devotion of the faithful, and introduces the sense of mystery more easily."

## An Indult

He said, "It is necessary not to forget that the distribution of Communion in the hand, from a juridical standpoint, remains up to now an indult," which is an exemption from a general requirement that is granted by the Vatican to the bishops conferences, which have requested it."

He said, "The Pope's adoption of the traditional practice of distributing Communion aims to highlight the force of the valid norm for the whole Church." +++