

§ 11. HOLY COMMUNION DURING HIGH MASS

ON Maundy Thursday there is a distribution of Holy Communion at High Mass. This does not often occur on other days; but any Catholic has normally a right to present himself for Communion at any Mass, on condition that he is in a state of grace and fasting from midnight. Should then there be a distribution of Communion at High Mass the following rules are to be observed.¹

As soon as the celebrant has received Communion under the form of bread, the M.C. gives a sign to the members of the choir, if they will make their Communion. They come to the middle of the sanctuary two and two, without birettas, the hands joined, and kneel there.

The torch-bearers do not go away after the elevation, but stay kneeling till the Communion.

The members of the choir who do not make their Communion remain in their places, stand during the *Confiteor*, *Indulgentiam* and all the time. When the celebrant has received Communion in the form of wine, the deacon at his left covers the chalice and puts it aside towards the gospel side, but not outside the corporal. The deacon and subdeacon genuflect and change places, the deacon going to the right of the celebrant, the subdeacon to his left. The celebrant and ministers genuflect;² the deacon opens the ciborium and moves it to the middle of the corporal; all three genuflect. The deacon and subdeacon go to the ends of the foot-pace and stand on the highest step below it, facing each other one on each side. The deacon, bowing, sings the *Confiteor*.³ The subdeacon at the other side stands and bows low.

As soon as the *Confiteor* is begun, the acolytes, or, if they hold torches, the M.C. and the thurifer, take the Communion cloth, come with it to the middle before the lowest step, genuflect, separate, each holding one end of the cloth, and go to kneel at the ends of the foot-pace, facing each other and holding the cloth stretched across between them.

The celebrant faces the people, says *Misereatur* and *Indulgentiam*, then turns towards the altar. He genuflects, takes the ciborium in his left, holds a consecrated particle in the right above it, and says *Ecce Agnus Dei*. Meanwhile the deacon and subdeacon come round to the other side of the

¹ Gavanti-Merati, i, pp. 185-186; Martinucci-Menghini, I, ii, pp. 70-75; Le Vavasseur, i, pp. 477-482; De Herdt, i, pp. 478-480.

² Supposing that the ciborium is on the altar, as when the particles have been consecrated at the Mass. If it is in the tabernacle, the deacon first opens the tabernacle, then they genuflect.

³ At Requiem Masses the deacon does not sing the "Confiteor," but says it aloud.