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OFFICE OF
THE ARCHBISHOP

INFORMATION BULLETIN

June 20, 2003

(03/07)

A. Matters Sacramental and Liturgical

1. Blessings at Communion Time

Recently the Chancery has received inquiries about the appropriateness of extending a blessing at Communion time to individuals who because of age, religion, or marital status cannot receive Communion. Apparently a practice has immerged in some parishes of the Archdiocese whereby priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist extend a blessing to those who do not receive Holy Communion. The custom of blessing individuals at Communion time is not part of the Roman Catholic Liturgy and should be discontinued. While presumably intended as a kind gesture, an individual priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of the Eucharist should not arbitrarily introduce such action into the Liturgy.