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**ADMISSION OF NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS
TO THE HOLY COMMUNION**

The following instructions regarding the procedure to be followed when admitting baptized non-Catholics to Holy Communion are to be observed by the English speaking Community who attend the church service in the chapel of the Gozo Seminary.

1. In the first place it is to be noted that those Christians who do not belong to the Catholic denomination, especially the Anglicans, meet every month in the chapel of the Gozo Seminary for a service which is led by the Anglican Pastor. These non-Catholic Christian brethren preferably are to attend the service which is held specifically for them in the Seminary Chapel, mentioned above.

2. Since this Church service is not held every week the brethren who belong to the Anglican Community or to other Christian denomination are most welcome if they wish to attend, upon invitation and of their own free accord, the Catholic Service which is held on every Sunday at the same Chapel.

However whether they are to be admitted to the Holy Communion or not, during our Mass, depends on the following conditions which are to be fulfilled at the discretion of the Bishop.

In the case of Christian non-Catholics the possibility of receiving Holy Communion is limited to the following occasions:

- (a) If the would be communicant is in danger of death or in a situation of grave and pressing need;
- (b) If he/she seeks Holy Communion on his own initiative;
- (c) If he/she is unable to attend the liturgical service of his/her Church;
- (d) Manifests the Catholic faith in the Sacrament and Sacrifice of Holy Eucharist;
- (e) Is properly disposed to receive the Holy Eucharist, that is he/she is in a state of grace.

3. In order to avoid misunderstandings, each case is to be examined individually and assessed on its own merits. Consequently, non-Catholics, provided they are baptized, who attend at the Sunday Service are kindly invited to write a letter to the Bishop asking his consent to receive the Eucharist in our Mass, giving the necessary details regarding their belief in the Holy Eucharist and affirming their good disposition to receive it.

Persons who are not eligible to receive the Sacramental Eucharistic Communion, including Catholics who are not in good standing in their own Church, would find that they benefit a great deal from a spiritual Communion which they may elicit during the celebration of the Holy Mass.

+ *Nicholas J. Cauchi*
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Bishop of Gozo
1st December 2000