

The Diocese of Gaylord has recently started a pilot program for Instituted Acolytes. The inaugural class was instituted by Bishop Raica at St. Mary Cathedral on April 27th, 2016. These ten men will serve at the Cathedral parish.

“Certain ministries were established by the Church even in the most ancient times for the purpose of suitably giving worship to God and for offering service to the people of God according to their needs. By these ministries, the offices to be carried out in the liturgy and the practice of charity, deemed suitable to varying circumstances, were entrusted to the faithful.”

The instituted ministries, opened to lay men by Pope Paul VI in 1973, exist to assist the priest in the parish, particularly in the liturgy. These men will assist particularly in the distribution of Communion and the purification of the sacred vessels. The task of purifying the vessels — making sure that no fragments of the Body and Blood of Christ are inadvertently disposed of — was briefly entrusted to all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as an experimental permission about a decade ago. However, that permission was not renewed, so that particular ministry is reserved to acolytes, deacons, and priests.

“He will perform these functions more worthily if he participates in the Holy Eucharist with increasingly fervent devotion, receives nourishment from it, and deepens his knowledge about it.”

Please pray for those answering this call to ministry, that they may grow in grace and understanding as they serve.

Quotes from *Ministeria Quaedam*