

THE MANNER OF RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ANCIENT FORM



“The Instruction Universae Ecclesiae makes it clear that Holy Communion is to be received kneeling and on the tongue at celebrations of the Extraordinary Form. Reception on the tongue is, in fact, the universal law of the Church, from which particular Episcopal Conferences have received derogations. The value of kneeling to show one’s humility in the presence of the sacred is affirmed in innumerable texts of Scripture and emphasised by Pope Benedict XVI in his book ‘The Spirit of the Liturgy’. The moment of receiving Holy Communion is the most appropriate of all to show this attitude. Reception on the tongue, while not universal in the Early Church, became so quickly, and this reflected the great concern shown by the Fathers that particles of the host not be lost, a concern reiterated in Pope Paul VI’s Memoriale Domini. In conclusion, the traditional manner of receiving Holy Communion, which evinces both humility and childlike receptivity, prepares the communicant for the fruitful reception. Further, it conforms perfectly to the general attitude of reverence towards the Sacred Species to be found throughout the Extraordinary Form.”

The above quotation comprises the Abstract from *Positio N. 3, The Manner of Receiving Holy Communion* (April 2012), written by the [Foederatio Internationalis Una Voce \(FIUV\)](http://www.unavoce.ru).

The full position paper is available online:

http://www.unavoce.ru/pdf/FIUV_PP/FIUV_PP3_CommunionFinal.pdf

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