

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### VESSELS AND LINENS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

- Bread box:** A lidded box containing the unleavened wafers for the Eucharist.
- Burse:** A flat case constructed of two stiffened sides covered with cloth in the liturgical color of the season and in which are contained purificators and corporals [from Medieval Latin, *bursa*, purse].
- Chalice:** A cup, usually with a broad base, for the consecrated wine of the Eucharist [from Latin, *calix*].
- Ciborium:** A vessel, usually shaped like a chalice with a cover, which is used to contain the wafers to be consecrated for the Eucharist; usually comes with a chalice in matching sets. Consecrated wafers may also be served from a ciborium [from Latin, meaning a drinking cup, from the Greek, *kib\_rium*].
- Corporal:** A large white linen cloth on which the consecrated elements of the Eucharist are placed during the celebration; in effect, it serves as a "table cloth" to catch any crumbs or spills (in which case it is treated with the reverence due consecrated elements of the Eucharist [from Latin, *corporalis*, "of the body," from *corpus*, meaning "body"]).
- Cruet:** A small glass or silver pitcher or bottle for holding water and wine for the Eucharist; if silver or other opaque material, some design will indicate whether it contains water or wine [from Old French, *crue*, a flask].
- Fair linen:** A white linen cloth about the width of the altar but longer so that it hangs off each side of the altar; another name for altar cloth. At the Eucharist, the corporal is placed on the fair linen. The name is from the rubrics of Cranmer's First Book of Common Prayer which directs that "the table be covered by a fair linen..."
- Flagon:** A large (and usually somewhat ornate) pitcher having a spout and handle, of silver or ceramic, used to hold the wine to be consecrated at the Eucharist [from Latin, *flasco*, a flask].
- Host:** The large wafer elevated by the celebrant and broken at the Fraction; usually is segmented to aid in breaking without many crumbs (which are caught by the corporal) [from Latin, *hostia*, sacrifice].

- Pall:** As used in the Eucharist, a stiff white linen covered board used to cover the chalice at the Fraction (to keep out crumbs) and which also provides stability for the paten, burse and veil of a vested chalice [from Latin, *pallium*, cloak].
- Paten:** A shallow dish, usually of gold or silver, used to hold the Eucharistic bread during the consecration and administration when it is in wafer form; may also be used to designate a position at the Eucharist, e.g., a designated person is the "paten", i.e., will serve the bread [from Latin, *patina*, plate].
- Purificator:** Small square of white linen, usually embroidered with a cross, used as a napkin to wipe the rim of the chalice during the reception of the wine at the Eucharist and to clean the chalice during the ablutions [from Latin, *purificare*, make clean].
- "Varmint spoon":** Ornate pierced spoon, sometimes called a "critter getter" used for removing foreign articles from a chalice; in reality, it is used where a communicant has dropped a wafer into the consecrated wine when communicating by intinction. The holes in the spoon allow the wine to drain back into the chalice and the wafer can then be consumed from the spoon; it sure beats sticking your fingers into the cup.
- Veil:** At the Eucharist, the square of material in liturgical colors matching the altar cloths and vestments; used to cover the chalice and paten, host and pall which make up a vested chalice.
- Vested chalice:** The "stack" consisting, from bottom to top, of the chalice, paten, host, pall, and corporal, all of which are topped with the burse, which is found on the altar prior to the celebration of the Eucharist.

