

# DO NOT DUMP THE REMAINING SACRED BLOOD DOWN THE SACRARIUM. YOU MUST CONSUME IT OR HAVE ANOTHER MINISTER CONSUME IT

## Throwing Away the Consecrated Species

It's one thing to pour *water* into the sacrarium, even if that water has been used to *dissolve* the consecrated species. In that case, the appearances of bread and wine no longer remain, and so the Real Presence does not remain, either. It is another thing entirely to use it to throw away the consecrated species themselves.

According to the Code of Canon Law,

Canon 1367 **A person who throws away the consecrated species** or who takes them or retains them for a sacrilegious purpose **incurs an automatic (*latae sententiae*) excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See**; if a cleric, he can be punished with another penalty including dismissal from the clerical state.

This offense is one of those *graviora delicta* (graver offenses) that is reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as noted in the instruction [Redemptioinis Sacramentum](#), which provides:

[172.] *Graviora delicta* against the sanctity of the Most August Sacrifice and Sacrament of the Eucharist are to be handled in accordance with the 'Norms concerning *graviora delicta* reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith', namely:

a) taking away or retaining the consecrated species for sacrilegious ends, or the throwing them away;

Pouring the Precious Blood into a sacrarium counts as throwing away the consecrated species, and so it cannot be done.

## It Is Explicitly Forbidden

The fact that pouring the Precious Blood *even into a sacrarium* is not permitted is made explicit in *Redemptioinis Sacramentum*, which provides:

[107.] In accordance with what is laid down by the canons, "one who throws away the consecrated species or takes them away or keeps them for a sacrilegious purpose, incurs a *latae sententiae* [automatic] excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See; a cleric, moreover, may be punished by another penalty, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state".

To be regarded as pertaining to this case is any action that is voluntarily and gravely disrespectful of the sacred species.

**Anyone, therefore, who acts contrary to these norms, for example casting the sacred species into the sacrarium or in an unworthy place or on the ground, incurs the penalties laid down.**

The good news, for anyone who has done this innocently not knowing that they shouldn't, is that the excommunication does not apply to them ([CIC 1323, no. 2](#)).

But the rule remains: No pouring the Precious Blood down a sacrarium.

## What You Are Supposed to Do

The actual answer is that any remaining amount of the Precious Blood should be consumed. Section 107 of *Redemptioinis Sacramentum* continues:

Furthermore all will remember that once the distribution of Holy Communion during the celebration of Mass has been completed, the prescriptions of the Roman Missal are to be observed, and in particular, **whatever may remain of the Blood of Christ must be entirely and immediately consumed by the Priest or by another minister**, according to the norms, while the consecrated hosts that are left are to be consumed by the Priest at the altar or carried to the place for the reservation of the Eucharist.