

## What is the St. Bruno Policy on Intinction?

# 1.in·tinc·tion

[in'tiNG(k)SHən]

NOUN

1. the action of dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist so that a communicant receives both together.

The issue of intinction raises some controversy. Some are concerned that intinction simply does not fulfill the command to “eat this bread and drink this cup” (1 Corinthians 11:26), as it combines the two elements into one. Where Scripture mentions two actions (eat and drink), intinction has just one. Some point to John 13:26 as an example of intinction in the Bible: “Dipping the piece of bread, [Jesus] gave it to Judas.” However, this verse can hardly be used as the foundation for a church sacrament; the same verse specifies that Jesus was dipping the bread into a dish (probably of charoset), not a cup. And Judas the betrayer is the only one to receive it.

It is clear that, at the Last Supper, Jesus gave the apostles the bread and wine separately, with individual instructions concerning each element. Churches wanting to stay as close as possible to Jesus’ model reject intinction and keep communion as two definite actions. While we should always be careful about modifying any biblical instruction, Scripture neither prohibits nor endorses intinction. What is more important is that we apply the correct meaning and value to the Supper itself, not the particular manner of its presentation.

**Here is St. Bruno’s official policy on this:**

If someone tries to dip their host, place your hand over the the cup, smile at them and politely say, "the Church prefers people to drink from the cup." then remove your hand and let them decide for themselves. Please do not refuse to allow the person to take communion.