

Those who may profit by this dispensation are chronic invalids, persons not sick enough to receive Communion as viaticum yet too weak to be able to keep the ordinary fast : Nothing is modified or changed for the sick who can keep the fast, nor for those who have a right to Communion as Viaticum.

It will be easy to decide if they come under the dispensation by the two conditions indicated : that they have been sick for a month and that their sickness is likely to last some time : *Infirmi qui jam a mense decumberent absque certa spe ut cito convalescant.* We must not translate two literally "decumbere" as confined to bed imagining one were not sick enough to profit by the indult only on condition of not being able to rise, the expression means sick, or being confined to one's room. Likewise it is not necessary that during this first month of sickness the invalid has not communicated fasting, it suffices to have been sick a month. And as to the cure if it does not seem near that circumstance entitles the sick person to profit by the indult. Moreover the recovery does not need to be definitive in order that we cease to have a right to use the indult ; it suffices evidently that the sick person can without difficulty keep the Eucharistic fast and retake his or her ordinary communions of devotion.

The rule to follow in this important matter does not rest with the sick person but with the Confessor, who will decide according to his conscience and the needs of each individual case.

Finally the decree fixes the number of communions allowed without fast. If in the house where the sick person resides there is a chapel or domestic oratory where the Blessed Sacrament is kept, or where mass only is authorized, he or she allowed one or two communions a week. As to the others who live at greater or lesser distances from the church they are allowed communion once or twice a month.

These communions differ in no way from the others as regards the ritual ceremonies. So for further information we can refer to the Ritual as the Decree advises.

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