



Confirmation Master of Ceremonies Instructions

Preliminary Notes:

- Unless there are vast numbers, confirmands (and/or sponsors) are invited to participate in the entrance procession. An MC will assist with ordering the procession.
- Confirmands should be prepared to be seated as a group and sponsors should be seated as a separate group behind them. Inconspicuous signs on the pews are helpful and encouraged. Note: Confirmands do not sit next to sponsors in the pews so that each group may respond to the relevant ritual questions separately.
- Make server assignments and be sure that the Missal is set, and all requisites are ready. See panning form.

Principles of the Miter and Crosier:

Miter: Always wears the Miter in procession, when seated, and when performing a liturgical act in virtue of his role as chief shepherd: ex) Renewal of Baptismal Vows, confirming, blessing. He never prays with the miter on.

Crosier: The Crosier is always used in procession and when acting in virtue of his capacity as chief shepherd. Ex) confirmation, vows, blessing, etc.

ORDER OF PROCESSION

- Incense,
- Cross BETWEEN 2 Candles
- Additional servers
- Confirmands
- Deacon with Book of the Gospels
- Other clergy
- Bishop (walking alone with the deacons a little behind him (CE 128)
- MC
- Miter and crozier.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- Bishop has miter on and crozier in hand.

WHEN HE REACHES THE FOOT OF THE ALTAR

- Miter and crozier are handed off to Master of Ceremonies.
- If a tabernacle is in the center of the sanctuary, the bishop will genuflect.

IF INCENSE IS USED (Note: It is the norm for it to be used)

- After Bishop reverences the altar, he will turn to the thurifer who should be standing near the rear corner of the altar, ready with the incense boat. (If a deacon is present the thurifer hands the incense boat to the deacon; if not, the thurifer hands it to the bishop.)
- Bishop incenses the cross and altar.
- Note: The organist should provide enough music to cover this ritual action.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- For a Penitential Rite, *I Confess* is preferable. However, see planning sheet.
- The Gloria is required: the choir, cantor or organist may intone the Gloria.
- The server brings the Roman Missal for the Collect. It should be already opened to the correct page. See planning sheet.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Bring the miter to the bishop before the First Reading.
- Bishop sits and listens to the First Reading, Psalm, (and Second Reading) with his miter on

Gospel

- Bring incense boat and thurible to the bishop; he will bless the incense and fill thurible. The deacon (if present) or a priest comes for a blessing; he stands and bows for the blessing; (CE 140)- the server has crozier in hand, but stays out of way until the gospel reader departs
- The MC takes the miter and gives the crozier *after the Gospel dialogue*.
- The Bishop stands and listens to the gospel with his crozier in his hand.
- After the gospel, briefly take the crozier from him so that he might kiss the Book of Gospels.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Candidates

- Bishop will sit after the gospel, with miter on and holding the crozier. Seated in the chair he will hear the presentation of the candidates.
- After the Gospel, from the ambo, the pastor presents the candidates for Confirmation, using the following formula: “Your Excellency, (name of parish) presents to you these candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. After prayer and study, they asked to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism.” The presentation should be brief and not recount the requirements for Confirmation or the theology of Confirmation. The prescribed formula is both sufficient and preferred.
- 15 or less candidates from a **given parish** are to be presented individually by name. Otherwise they are to be presented as a group. The candidates are to stand at their places when called and they remain standing until they are seated for the homily. Exceptions may be requested of the Bishop through the Master of Ceremonies.

Homily

- Normally, he preaches from the ambo with miter.
- After the homily, the bishop and his deacons move to the front of the altar.
- A server holds the Confirmation text for the bishop in front of the altar.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises (*The Creed is omitted even if required by the rubrics for the day*)

- The server or deacon continues to hold the Rite of Confirmation and the bishop holds the crozier.
- The **candidates alone stand** for the renewal of baptismal promises. Only the candidates respond to the bishop’s inquiries.

Laying on of Hands

- There is no miter nor crozier for this prayer.
- As the candidates have already been standing, the bishop invites all present to **stand** to pray for the candidates.
- After silently praying for a short time, the bishop, standing in the sanctuary (along with any concelebrants) lays hands upon all the candidates by extending his hands over them.
- The bishop alone says the prayer.

Anointing with Chrism

- Servers bring the Chrism to the Bishop; he keeps the miter and crozier for the anointing.
- An MC will then direct the confirmands and the sponsors to come forward for the anointing with Chrism by forming a line (or 2 lines) in the middle aisle. The congregation may be seated for the anointing.
- The candidates approach the bishop individually (single file) unless there be more than 15. If there are more than 15, they are to approach two by two (in two lines)
- During the anointing the pastor or one of the deacons stands to the bishop's left. A deacon stands at his right with a vessel of Chrism. A suitable chant may be sung, or soft instrumental music may be played.
- **Sponsors should present a card with the confirmand's name over their left shoulder so that it may be easily seen by the bishop. The right hand of the sponsor should be on the shoulder of the confirmand.**
- After each anointing the bishop will say "Peace be with you" The response is "And with your Spirit."
- The bishop will shake your hand and then you may return to their pews after each individual anointing.
- Music during anointing should conclude when the bishop has washed his hands and returned to the chair.
- After all, have been anointed, the crozier is taken away
- **At the chair, wash the bishop's hands with lemons, non-soapy water, a bowl and a towel.**
- The deacon should move to the ambo for the intercessions at this point.

Profession of Faith

There is no Creed, since the renewal of baptismal promises has been part of this Mass.

Prayers of the Faithful

Immediately after the washing is complete, the bishop will begin the General Intercessions.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts and the Altar

- The Bishop will wear his miter as he receives the gifts.
- Place the *Roman Missal* on the altar during the Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts
- Turn the pages for the Bishop as necessary.
- Having determined the Eucharistic prayer before hand, please be prepared with the proper insert. (See front of the Confirmation Ritual)
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Eucharistic Prayer

- Bishop's zucchetto (amaranth-red cap) is taken away before he starts the preface dialogue. It may be placed on the miter or his chair.
- Turn the pages- from the top.

The Prayer After Communion

- The MC may distribute communion. If he will, he should put on his stole for the whole of the communion rite.
- The bishop, priests, and deacons should always be ministers of Holy Communion as the needs arise. After that, extraordinary ministers should be employed to assist. **At no time should an ordinary minister of communion be present in the sanctuary while an extraordinary minister takes his place.**

- After the distribution of Holy Communion, bring the *Roman Missal* for the Prayer After Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

Greeting

- The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. (or other form of Episcopal greeting)

Blessing People

- Deacon: “Bow down for the blessing.”
After the solemn invocations, (See Ritual pg. 37 then give the bishop his miter and crozier for the concluding blessing.

Closing Hymn

- Bishop will wear the miter and carry the crozier as he processes out. The MC follows behind.

Note: Watch the bishop and be attentive to his needs.

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