

Liturgical Notes for Servers

Mass during a Pastoral Visit

Thurifer

This server ministers the thurible and the incense boat during the Mass. There are three incensations: at the beginning of Mass, at the Gospel and during the Preparation of the Gifts.

Before the Entrance procession begins, the server will bring the censor and boat to Bishop McIntyre for the imposition of incense. He will lead the procession, bowing before the altar when arriving in the sanctuary. He then turns left and stands near the side of altar for the incensation of the altar and cross. The deacon or Master of Ceremonies will hold the boat while the server brings the thurible before Bishop McIntyre. After the imposition of incense, the server takes the boat, hands the thurible to the deacon or Master of Ceremonies and then returns to the Floor at the side of the altar. When the incensation is finished, the server brings the boat and the thurible to the stand for the thurible in the sanctuary or to the sacristy.

After the proclamation of the second reading, the server brings the thurible and boat to Bishop McIntyre. He bows, hands the boat to the deacon or Master of ceremonies and kneels or stands for the imposition. He leads the deacon to the altar to take the Book of the Gospels and then to the ambo for the proclamation of the Gospel. After the incensation and the completion of the Gospel, the server returns the boat and the thurible to the stand for the thurible in the sanctuary or to the sacristy.

At the end of the General Intercessions, the server carrying the thurible and boat, stands at the side of the altar at floor level. After the gifts have been prepared and presented, he approaches Bishop McIntyre, hands the boat to the deacon or Master of Ceremonies, and presents the thurible for the imposition. He returns to the bottom step. He takes the thurible after the incensation is completed. He returns the boat and the thurible to the stand for the thurible in the sanctuary or to the sacristy.

At the end of the Mass, the server, carrying the thurible and boat, leads the procession out of the Church.

Cross Bearer

The cross bearer carries the cross in the entrance procession and the recessional and also assists the deacon in setting the altar and receiving the gifts during the Preparation Rite.

The cross bearer follows the censor in the procession, bows upon entering the sanctuary, and places the cross in the sacristy if it is not the cross of the Mass. The server then takes their place in the sanctuary.

After the General Intercessions, the cross bearer assists with the receiving of the gifts at the entrance of the sanctuary.

N.B. Please allow time for altar to be prepared. Gift bearers should not process until Bishop McIntyre moves to the middle of the sanctuary to receive them.

Following the solemn Blessing and dismissal, the cross bearer lines up at the edge of the sanctuary or in the middle aisle with the other ministers. He bows when Bishop McIntyre genuflects and follows the censor bearer down the aisle in the recessional.

Acolytes with Candles

The two acolytes carry the candles in the entrance procession, the procession with the Book of the Gospels and in the recessional. They also assist the Bishop in receiving the gifts, ministering the wine and water and washing Bishop McIntyre's hands at the Preparation Rite and after the Blessed Sacrament is reserved after Communion.

The acolytes carry the candles on each side of the cross bearer during the entrance procession. Arriving in the sanctuary, they bow, and place their candles in the sacristy unless they are the candles of the Mass.

At the Gospel Acclamation, the acolytes, with candles, come before the altar and accompany the deacon with the Book of the Gospels to the ambo, standing on each side. After the Gospel is proclaimed, the acolytes place candles in the sacristy and return to their seats.

The acolytes, following the General Intercessions, assist the deacon in receiving the gifts at Bishop McIntyre's chair. They then minister the wine and water, and wash Bishop McIntyre's hands after the incensation of the altar and the gifts.

When the distribution of Holy Communion is finished and the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, the acolytes go with dish, water and towel to the Chair where Bishop McIntyre will wash his hands.

After the dismissal, the acolytes with candles accompany the cross to the edge of the sanctuary or the middle aisle, where they face the altar and bow when Bishop McIntyre genuflects. They walk on each side of the Cross during the recessional.

Mitre and Crosier Bearers

These servers carry Bishop McIntyre's mitre and crosier, assisting near the Chair.

In the entrance procession, the mitre and crosier bearers wear vimps and walk directly behind Bishop McIntyre. When they reach the sanctuary, they receive the mitre and crosier from the master of ceremonies and bow as Bishop McIntyre genuflects. They proceed to their chairs and remain in place following the directions of the master of ceremonies. Bishop McIntyre will wear his mitre when he sits for the proclamations of the first two readings, gives the homily, receives the gifts, gives the final blessing, and processes in and out of church. He carries the crosier during processions, the Gospel proclamation, and the final Blessing.

During the introductory Rites, the mitre and crosier bearers stand by their chairs. During the Liturgy of the Word, they stand and sit as appropriate. After the reception of the gifts, the Master of Ceremonies should take the mitre and crosier so the servers can kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer and, when necessary, during the Communion Rite.

After the final prayer and blessing, the mitre and crosier bearers follow Bishop McIntyre to the foot of the altar and stand off to the side. When Bishop McIntyre genuflects, they bow and follow him out in the recessional.

Book Bearer

The book bearer walks behind the mitre and crosier bearers in the entrance procession and the recessional. He carries the Roman Missal or the “Book of the Chair” in the procession. The book should be prepared prior to Mass. Upon entering the sanctuary, the book bearer bows as Bishop McIntyre genuflects. Together with the mitre and crosier bearer, the book bearer goes to his chair. He remains there with the book in hand until the Master of Ceremonies calls him forward to the Chair. Bishop McIntyre will not need the book until the Opening Collect unless the Master of Ceremonies determines otherwise, in which case he will direct the book bearer to the chair at the appropriate time. After the Opening Collect, the book bearer returns to his chair.

During the Liturgy of the Word, he stands and sits as appropriate. The book bearer stands before Bishop McIntyre for the General Intercessions, but not during the recitation of the Creed.

During the Preparation Rite he sits at his chair and kneels during the Eucharist Prayer and, when appropriate, during the Communion Rite.

Following the distribution of Holy Communion, the book bearer returns to the chair for the Prayer after Communion and the Solemn Blessing.

The book bearer bows as Bishop McIntyre genuflects in front of the altar and then follows the mitre and crosier bearers in the recessional without the book.