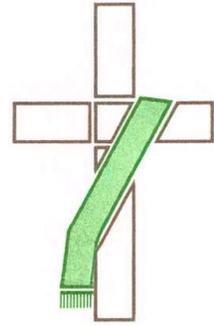




**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT
OF
CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS
NOTES FOR DEACONS**



INTRODUCTION

- These notes are supplied with the purpose of aiding Deacon(s) in preparing the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important that the Deacon understands the significance of his role in the liturgy and be prepared to carry it out in a reverent and efficient manner.
- No more than two Deacons may serve at the Confirmation Mass. If there are two Deacons, one Deacon is assigned to the Liturgy of the Word and the other to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Any Deacon not serving at the altar may participate unvested in the Assembly. If, by way of exception given by the Office for Divine Worship, two deacons may serve as Chaplains to the Bishop and one deacon may function as the Deacon of the Mass.
- The texts that the Deacon proclaims or announces must be the ones indicated in the *Roman Missal* and *Rite of Confirmation*.
- When incensing a person or thing, three single swings are used. As is our practice, when incensing the Blessed Sacrament, three sets of three swings are used.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Vested and carrying the *Book of the Gospels* slightly elevated, the Deacon walks directly in front of the Concelebrants. If there is no Book of the Gospels, the Deacon walks slightly behind the Bishop to his side. The use of the *Book of the Gospels* with the Bishop is preferred.
- The Deacon does not carry a program or hymnal in the procession. This allows his hands to be free to assist the Bishop with the incense.
- Upon arriving at the altar, if he is carrying the *Book of the Gospels*, the Deacon goes up to the altar and lays the *Book of the Gospels* flat upon the altar. When carrying the *Book of the Gospels* the Deacon makes no bow or reverence, but proceeds directly to the altar.
- After placing the *Book of the Gospels* on it, waits, and then along with the Bishop, he venerates the altar with a kiss. However, if he is not carrying the *Book of the Gospels*, he customarily makes the genuflection with the Bishop, and then with him venerates the altar with a kiss.
- If incense is used, the Deacon takes the boat from the Thurifer and assists the Bishop in putting some in the censer and accompanies the Bishop for the incensing the cross and the altar. He then returns the boat to the Thurifer and takes the thurible and hands it to the Bishop.
- After the incensation, he takes the thurible and gives it to the Thurifer and goes to the chair with the Bishop, sits next to him, and assists him as required.
- If Form C is used for the Act of Penitence, the Deacon leads it after a *substantial* pause following the Bishop's introduction. The text is provided in the Confirmation Ritual.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- If incense is used, the Deacon assists the Bishop when he puts incense in the censer during the singing of the *Alleluia* or other chant.
- Then he kneels or makes a profound bow before the Bishop and asks for the blessing, saying in a low voice: “*Your blessing, Father.*” The Bishop blesses him: “*May the Lord be in your heart...*” The Deacon signs himself with the sign of the cross and responds: *Amen.*
- If the Book of the Gospels is being used, he takes the *Book of the Gospels* which was fittingly laid on the altar and, with a bow to the altar, processes to the ambo, slightly elevating the book, with the Thurifer preceding him, while the censer is smoking, and with ministers holding lighted candles. If not, he goes directly to the ambo.
- There he greets the people, saying, with his hands joined: “*The Lord be with you,*” and then, “*A reading from the holy Gospel ...*” signing the book with his thumb and afterwards, himself on his forehead, mouth and breast.
- He incenses the book and proclaims the Gospel reading. The incensation is done with three single swings.
- After the reading, he brings the *Book of the Gospels* to the Bishop who will venerate it with a kiss. He then gives the book to the Master of Ceremonies or places it in another suitable place. If only the *Lectionary* is used, the Deacon kisses the text and returns to his seat.
- In more solemn celebrations, as circumstances allow, the Bishop may impart a blessing to the people with the *Book of the Gospels*.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

- Following the Prayer of Confirmation, the Deacon will bring the Sacred Chrism (uncovered) to the Bishop and assist the Bishop during the anointing.
- After the anointing with Chrism is complete, the Deacon takes the Sacred Chrism from the bishop and places it on the credence table covered.
- After the Bishop introduces the *Universal Prayer*, the Deacon proposes the intentions from the ambo. He remains at the ambo while the Bishop concludes the *Universal Prayer* with a prayer. The Deacon is responsible for printing his own copy of the *Universal Prayer* contained in the attachments of this packet.
- At the conclusion of this prayer, the Deacon begins the preparation of the altar.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- After the *Universal Prayer*, while the Bishop remains at the chair, the Deacon prepares the altar, assisted by the acolyte(s), but the care of the sacred vessels belongs to the Deacon. He assists the Bishop in receiving the people's gifts in a suitable place.
- Next, he hands the Bishop the paten with the bread to be consecrated, pours wine and a little water into the chalice saying inaudibly: “*By the mystery of this water and wine ...*,” then passes the chalice to the Bishop.
- If incense is used, the Deacon assists and accompanies the Bishop with the incensation of the gifts, the cross and the altar (similar to the same way it was done in the Introductory Rites); afterward he incenses the Bishop, the Concelebrants, and the people. This is done with a bow, three single swings, then a second bow.

- During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Deacon stands near but slightly behind the concelebrants, so that when needed he may assist the Bishop with the chalice or the *Roman Missal*.
- The pall should be removed from the chalice at the epiclesis and the returned to it at the memorial acclamation. The pall is then again removed for the doxology and the replaced after the *Amen*.
- As a general rule, from the epiclesis until the elevation of the chalice the Deacon remains kneeling (if physically possible).
- At the “*Through Him and with Him ...*” of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Deacon stands next to the Bishop elevates the chalice as the Bishop raises the paten with the Eucharist until the people have responded with the acclamation *Amen*.

COMMUNION RITE

- After the Bishop has said the prayer for peace and the greeting “*The peace of the Lord be with you always*” and the people have made the response “*And with your spirit,*” the Deacon invites all to exchange the sign of peace, saying, with hands joined and facing the people: “***Let us offer each other the sign of peace.***” He himself receives the sign of peace from the Bishop and may offer it to the other ministers near him.
- After the Bishop’s communion, the Deacon receives under both kinds from the Bishop himself and then assists the Bishop in giving communion to the people. If communion is given under both kinds, the Deacon ministers the chalice as a rule.
- When the distribution is completed, the Deacon immediately and reverently consumes at the altar all of the Blood of Christ which remains; he may be assisted, if needs dictate, by other Deacons and priests or, in their absence, by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, no. 37).
- After communion, the Deacon returns to the altar with the Bishop and collects any remaining fragments. He then takes the chalice and other vessels to the side table, where he covers them in the usual way to purify immediately after Mass. He then returns to his chair.

CONCLUDING RITE

- If a more solemn formula for the blessing is used, or even a prayer over the people, the Deacon says: “*Bow down for the blessing.*” This direction is not given if the Bishop is giving a simple blessing or the Episcopal Blessing.
- After the Bishop’s blessing, the Deacon, with hands joined and facing the people, dismisses them, saying: “*Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life*” or using one of the other formulas of the *Roman Missal*.
- Along with the Bishop, the Deacon venerates the altar with a kiss, and then makes the reverence as directed by the Master of Ceremonies. The Deacon walks slightly behind the bishop to his side in the final procession.