

CHAPTER XIV

ASSISTING THE ARCHBISHOP AT MASS ¹

The following is a summary of the deacon functions when called upon to assist the Archbishop at Mass. Each of them is identified in italics.

A. STATIONAL MASS:

This Mass, which is called the stational Mass, celebrated at the cathedral, shows the unity of the local church as well as the diversity of ministries exercised around the Archbishop and the holy eucharist. *Deacons should assist in the celebration*

As a rule, *at least three deacons assist in a stational Mass*: one to proclaim the Gospel reading and minister at the altar, two to assist the Archbishop.

Deacons should assist the Archbishop in vesting, assembly of the crozier, and handing him the miter to be placed on his head. The Archbishop receives the pallium from the deacon before the miter is put on.

The censer-bearer comes forward, *a deacon presents the incense boat*, and the Archbishop puts incense into the censer and blesses it with the sign of the cross. The Archbishop then receives the crozier from a minister. *A deacon takes the Book of the Gospels* and with reverence carries it unopened in the entrance procession.

B. INTRODUCTORY RITES

As the entrance song is being sung, the procession moves to the sanctuary in the following order:

- Censer-bearer
- An acolyte carrying the cross between two other acolytes carrying candlesticks with lighted candles
- *The deacon, carrying the Book of the Gospels*
- *Deacons, if present, two by two*
- Presbyters
- Concelebrating presbyters
- The Archbishop, walking alone, wearing the miter, carrying the crozier in his left hand
- *Two deacons, a little behind the Archbishop*

- The ministers who assist with the book, the miter, and the crozier.

C. APPROACHING THE ALTAR

The deacon carrying the Book of Gospels places it on the altar.

Together with *the deacons* and other ministers accompanying him, the *Archbishop* makes a deep bow to the altar, then goes up to the altar, and together with the two deacons assisting him, kisses it.

The deacons assist the Archbishop when he incenses the altar. When the altar has been incensed the Archbishop is seated and *the two deacons stand on either side of the chair, ready to assist him.*

D. GREETING AND PENITENTIAL RITE

The Archbishop greets the people and pronounces the invitation to the penitential rite. *The deacon or the Archbishop then pronounces the invocations.* The Archbishop says the closing prayer.

E. OPENING PRAYER AND LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the opening prayer, *the Archbishop sits and receives the miter from one of the deacons.*

The censer-bearer goes to the Archbishop and, as *one of the deacons presents the incense boat*, the Archbishop puts incense into the censer and blesses it.

The deacon who is to proclaim the gospel reading makes a deep bow before the Archbishop and asks for a blessing. The Archbishop blesses him. *The deacon signs himself with the sign of the cross and replies, "Thank you, Father" or "Amen".*

The Archbishop then takes off the miter and stands. *The miter is taken by a deacon or an acolyte.*

The deacon goes to the altar, where he is joined by the censer-bearer holding the censer with burning incense and by the acolytes with lighted candles. After bowing to the altar, the deacon reverently takes the Book of the Gospels and, without any further reverence to the altar, carries the book with solemnity to the ambo, preceded by the censer-bearer and the acolytes with candles.

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At the ambo, with hands joined, the deacon greets the people. He makes the sign of the cross on the book and then on his forehead, on his lips, and on his breast.

The deacon puts incense into the censer and incenses the book three times. He then proclaims the gospel reading.

At the conclusion of the gospel, the deacon says, "The gospel of the Lord." He then takes the Book of the Gospels to the Archbishop, who kisses the book.

The deacon then takes the Book of the Gospels to a side table or other suitable place and goes directly to his chair..

The Archbishop gives the homily which is followed by a period of silence. He then puts aside the miter and crozier and stands. The profession of faith is sung or recited.

After the profession of faith, the Archbishop, standing at the chair, introduces the intercessions. *One of the deacons announces the intercessions from the ambo or some other suitable place.* The Archbishop says the concluding prayer.

F. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

At the end of the intercessions, the Archbishop sits and puts on the miter. *The deacons move to the altar and arrange the corporal, purificators, chalice, and the Roman Missal (Sacramentary) which are brought forward by the acolytes. The gifts are then brought forward and presented to the Archbishop, who is assisted by the deacons.* Any other gifts are taken to a suitable place prepared beforehand.

The Archbishop goes to the altar, lays aside the miter, and *receives the paten with the bread from the deacon. The deacon pours wine and a little water into the chalice. He then hands the chalice to the Archbishop, who says the prescribed formulary and places the chalice on the corporal. The deacon may cover it with a pall.*

The censer-bearer then goes to the Archbishop, and as *the deacon holds the incense boat*, the Archbishop puts incense in the censer and blesses it. *The Archbishop receives the censer from the deacon, and incenses the gifts, as well as the altar and the cross. After this, the deacon standing at the side of the altar, incenses the Archbishop, who stands without miter, then the concelebrants, the deacons present, then the people.*

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After the Archbishop has been incensed, he removes his ring and washes his hands. He invites the people to pray. The Archbishop then sings or says the prayer over the gifts.

The Archbishop removes his skullcap which is *taken by the deacon places it away from the altar*. The concelebrants gather behind the Archbishop at the altar. *The deacons stand behind the concelebrants, but in such a way that one of them may assist with the cup and the book as needed.* No one should stand between the concelebrants and the Archbishop or between the concelebrants and the altar.

If the chalice and ciborium are covered, *the deacon should uncover them before the epiclesis. One of the deacons puts incense into the censer and incenses the host and chalice at each elevation. The deacons remain kneeling from the epiclesis to after the elevation of the chalice.*

After the consecration, *the deacon may cover the chalice and the ciborium. At the final doxology of the eucharistic prayer, the deacon, standing at the side of the Archbishop, holds up the chalice while the Archbishop holds up the paten with the host until the people have made the acclamation, "Amen."*

After the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Archbishop proclaims the greeting of peace. *One of the deacons, facing the people, may give the invitation to the exchange of the sign of peace.*

The Archbishop gives the sign of peace to the two concelebrants nearest him, *then to the first of the deacons.*

When the Archbishop has received communion *he hands the cup to one of the Deacons and gives communion to the deacons and to the faithful. The concelebrants go up to the altar and receive the blood from the deacon, who presents the cup and wipes it with a purificator after the communion of each concelebrant.*

When communion is over, *one of the deacons consumes the blood that remains, takes the cup to a side table, purifies it and arranges it, or he may do that after Mass. Another deacon, or one of the concelebrants, takes the remaining consecrated particles to the tabernacle. Then, at the side table he cleanses the paten and ciborium over the chalice before he cleanses the chalice.*

G. CONCLUDING RITE

The Archbishop receives the miter and greets the people. After the greeting *the deacon may give the invitation, "Bow your heads....."*. Whenever the Archbishop imparts the apostolic blessing, *it is announced by the deacon and is pronounced by use of its proper formulary.*

After the blessing, *one of the deacon dismisses the people, saying, "The Mass is ended, go in peace" or one of the other formularies.*

All in the sanctuary reverence the altar as at the beginning of Mass and return to the sacristy in procession, following the order in which they entered.

When they reach the sacristy, all make a reverence to the cross together with the Archbishop. All together the ministers bow to the Archbishop and lay aside all the vestments they have used. Silence is to be observed.

The deacons should assist the Archbishop in packing his vestments, the crozier and its stand if he is leaving. If he attending a function immediately after Mass wearing his vestments, a deacon should stand by to assist him.

H. OTHER MASSES CELEBRATED BY THE ARCHBISHOP

Everything prescribed by the GIRM for the celebration of the Mass with a congregation should be observed.

The specific functions of the deacon consist of the following:

At least one deacon should take part, wearing diaconal vestments.

The deacon who reads the gospel asks for and receives a blessing from the Archbishop. After the gospel reading, the book is either presented to the Archbishop to kiss, or the one who proclaimed the reading kisses it.

Before the Preface, the deacon hands the Archbishop's skullcap to a minister.

I. MASS AT WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP PRESIDES BUT NOT AS CELEBRANT:

Two deacons are to assist the Archbishop. In the entrance procession the Archbishop walks behind the celebrant or concelebrants, escorted by the deacon and ministers.

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Upon reaching the altar, the *Archbishop, together with the deacons and ministers make a bow to the altar (or genuflects).*

The Archbishop, *accompanied by a deacon*, incenses the altar in the usual way after which he goes directly to the chair. *The deacons stand close to the chair on either side, ready to assist him.*

The deacons and ministers prepare the altar as usual. If gifts are brought forward by the faithful, they are received by the celebrant or the Archbishop. After a deep bow to the Archbishop, the celebrant goes to the altar and begins the liturgy of the eucharist.

The deacon invites the faithful to share the sign of peace. The Archbishop gives the sign of peace to his deacons.

After the final prayer and the blessing, one of the deacons assisting the Archbishop dismisses the people.

After the Archbishop and the celebrant the altar, *all make the prescribed bow and leave in the order in which they entered.*

Note For Chapter XIV

1. Ceremonial of Bishops, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 1989

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