

Appointment as Vicar General (or Episcopal Vicar)

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service takes place during the Eucharist. Where a lighted candle is presented, tea candles in suitable holders are deemed safest.

The gradual being ended, the bishop takes his seat on a faldstool before the altar. The people are seated and the candidate comes forward bearing a lighted candle and a priest appointed as a sponsor presents the candidate to the bishop saying:

Priest: Right Reverend Father, our holy mother the church catholic prays that you would take this priest here to be your assistant.

Bishop: Do you know them to be worthy?

Priest: As far as human frailty allows me to judge, I both know and attest that they are worthy of the charge of this office.

Bishop: Thanks be to God.

The candidate and the bishop stand, facing each other and the bishop charges the clergy and the people as follows:

Bishop: In the minor orders, this candidate grew and developed their ministry; following the example of our Lord in serving with love and diligence. In the grade of sub-deacon, this ministry was further developed to involve the sanctuary and altar. When ordained deacon the roles of care and teaching were developed in addition to the roles of earlier orders. The Sacred Priesthood was conferred in due time and then the sacraments entrusted to the church were the principal portion of their serving. Each step has been a progression, and each step is built upon the one before it; it is not that the latest Holy Order replaces or supercedes the others: rather it adds to and enhances ministerial serving.

Bishop: Having demonstrated patience and obedience in the calling to the priesthood [Name] has shown the love of Christ within. Taking kindly to the experiences and lessons that come from serving Christ [Name] has been called by God to assume a measure of administrative responsibility within the church.

As bishop, it is our responsibility to be a shepherd, to be a servant of servants; guide and leader to all within our church and beyond. As this role is considerable, it is desirable that the Ordinary power is shared and the flock managed by the bishop with the assistance of a Vicar General (Episcopal Vicar).

Addressing the candidate

Bishop: [Name] Will you continue your vow of canonical obedience; and will you share with me some of the administrative burdens in this church (diocese)?

Candidate: I will, God being my helper.

Bishop: Will you act on my behalf, when I request it, as if I were present; and exercise fairness, compassion and leadership for me?

Candidate: I will, God being my helper.

Bishop: Always remember that the Ordinary power you exercise is not yours to use. You are acting on my behalf, as my agent and deputy. Always consider what Christ would have me do when you consider what He would have you do. I may call upon you to act for me in a way which is not how you would chose to do it, or to do what you dislike. In serving me however, you are serving Christ and the wider church. Together we must always act as obedient servants.

Bishop: Will you do this at all times?

Candidate: I will, God being my helper.

Bishop: [Name], in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, I appoint you to assist in my work, at my pleasure in the OCAC (Diocese of ...)

Bishop: Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, You send servants to work in Your vineyard to tend your church and lead your people. Bless [Name] in the work of Vicar General (Episcopal Vicar), assisting the Bishop (s) in guiding and leading this work. Make [Name] to be fair and compassionate in all things, and to put self behind others, in the use of the Ordinary power for the furtherance of Your Kingdom.

All: Amen.

The Eucharist continues to its conclusion.

Please regularly pray for the new Vicar General (or Episcopal Vicar) and for the work of our church.