

Ordination of Deacons

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

Instructions are in italics.

This service is used in the appropriate part of the Holy Eucharist.

Where the candidates bring candles forward, lighted tea-candles in suitable holders are deemed safest.

The Collect

Bishop: Almighty, everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole of the church is made holy and governed, pour forth your sanctifying grace into the hearts of this your servant/these your servants, who is/are about to be numbered among the deacons of your church, that with a pure heart and an open mind she/he/they may faithfully receive your blessing from on high; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Bishop: Teach us, O Lord, to see your life in everything and in all the peoples of the earth and so guide the nations into the understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The collects being ended, the bishop takes a seat upon a faldstool before the altar. All are seated, the ordinands come forward bearing lighted candles and a priest appointed for the purpose presents them to the bishop, saying:

Proposer: Right Reverend Father, our holy mother the church catholic prays that you will ordain this (these) subdeacon(s) to the charge of the diaconate.

Bishop: Do you know them to be worthy?

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

The ordinands take a step forward, their candles are taken from them and put on the altar. All are seated.

Bishop: Dearly beloved, these sub-deacons here before us are presented for the order of the diaconate, to be irrevocably set apart for the service of Christ by the gift of god's most Holy Spirit. Mindful of the sacred trust reposed in us, we have sought to ensure that only those that are obedient and trustworthy be presented for this office. Yet for further precaution we enquire of this congregation gathered: that if anyone knows of any reason or cause why these persons should not be admitted to the diaconate, then in the name of

God and for the benefit of his church, let them come forward boldly and speak; however, let anyone who does so be mindful of their own estate and condition.

After a pause, then addressing the ordinands:

Bishop: You, well beloved brother/sister who are now about to be raised to the order of deacon, do you endeavour to receive it worthily, and blamelessly to fulfil its duties when you have received it? It appertains to the deacon to minister at the altar, to read or intone the gospel, to preach and in the absence of the priest to baptize. Therefore, dearly beloved brother/sister as now you are charged to minister to the flock of Christ, be raised above all unworthy propensities which war against the soul; be seemly, courteous and full of noble desires and of love for God and for mankind, as befits ministers of Christ and stewards charged to dispense the mysteries of God. And as you now have a share in offering and dispensing the body and blood of the Lord, as holy writ has it: 'Be clean, you that bear the vessels of the Lord'. Be it your care to set forth to others, by living deeds, the gospel of your lips will proclaim to them, that of you it may be said: 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that publishes peace.'

The ordinand(s) rise.

Bishop: Will you therefore strive to use worthily the powers entrusted to you?

Ordinand: I will.

Bishop: The Lord keep you in all these things, well beloved brother/sister and strengthen you in all goodness.

The bishop rises and addresses those present as follows:

Bishop: Let us pray, dearest faithful, that almighty God, in his great lovingkindness and watchful care over his church, may bestow a plentiful grace on this sub-deacon/ these sub-deacons, now about to be raised to the order of the diaconate.

All sing the following litany, during which the ordinands lie prostrate:

The Litany

All: God the Father, seen of none,
God the co-eternal Son,
God the Spirit, with them One;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

God eternal, mighty King,
Unto You our love we bring,
Through the world Your praises ring;
We are Yours O Trinity.

Christ the Lord of life and light,
Ruler of the starry height;
Fount of glory infinite;
You we worship, Master.

Mighty Lord we hail you here,
Recognize your presence dear,
Feel and know that you are near,
Keeping thus your promise.

Though your face we cannot see,
As of old of Galilee,
Strong in faith we you,
Ever-present Master.

From our fathers we have heard,
Of the gift your hand conferred,
We have proved the Holy Word;
Be that gift outpoured.

Though your form from earth has gone,
Your apostles handed on,
Sacramental benison;
Be that blessing with us.

We this power would now convey,
Strengthen then our hands we pray,
Pour your might through us today,
Hear us Holy Master.

Monarch at your feet we kneel,
For your servant(s) we appeal,
Fill his/her heart with holy zeal,
In your service, Master.

Lord of holy church the head,
Mystic power upon him/her shed,
By your love may he/she be led;
Hear us Holy Master.

Link in mystic bond with you
This your deacon may he/she be,
From the world and self set free;
By your power O Master.

May he/she stand before your face,

Filled with love and heavenly grace,
Grant him/her with the saints a place;
Near you Lord and Master.

The bishop takes his crozier in his left hand; holds it above the prostrate ordinand and says or sings alone:

Bishop: We beseech you hear our prayer,
Bless + your servant prostrate there,
Hold him/her in your loving care;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

Hear your servants as they pray,
Help this chosen one today,
Bless+ and + hallow him/her for aye;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

Pour your loving-kindness great,
On your chosen candidate,
Bless + Him/her, + Hallow, + Consecrate;
Hear us Holy Trinity.

The bishop and clergy kneel and everyone sings:

All: God the Father, seen of none,
God the co-eternal Son,
God the Spirit, with them one;
We are yours O Trinity.

The bishop, and the people rise and are again seated. The ordinands kneel before the bishop who, with hands extended towards them says the following prayer:

Bishop: O Lord Christ, the fountain of all goodness, who by the operation of the Holy Spirit has appointed various orders in your church and for its greater enrichment and perfecting does pour down gifts abundantly upon mankind, we pray that you will + open to your heavenly grace the hearts and minds of these your servants who are about to be numbered among the deacons of your church that through them your power may flow down for the service of your people. For our part, as humans lacking the divine insight and ignorant of the supreme judgement, we have enquired into their lives as best our ability allows. But what is to us unknown cannot escape you O Lord, nor are hidden things concealed from you. You penetrate all secrets, you are the searcher of all hearts, you will test their lives and serving by your heavenly judgement, which does ever prevail. So we pray O Lord and Heavenly Master, to hallow and strengthen with your mighty + blessing these who we now set apart in the diaconate; that they may minister at your holy altars and to the well-being of your faithful people. Increase in them, O Lord, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that they may be strong and of good courage and, surmounting doubt and imperfection, may achieve for themselves a good degree and a great boldness in the faith,

O great ruler of the hearts of all people; to you be praise and adoration from mankind and the angel host. Amen.

All kneel while the Veni Creator is sung.

Veni Creator

All: Come, thou Creator Spirit blest,
And in our souls take up thy rest;
Come with thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

Great Paraclete, to thee we cry,
O highest gift of God most high;
O living fount, O fire, O love
And sweet anointing from above.

Thou in thy sevenfold gift art known;
Thee, finger of God's hand, we own;
The promise of the Father, thou
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

Kindle our senses from above
And make our hearts o'erflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far let us drive our tempting foe
And thine abiding peace bestow;
So shall we not, with thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

O may thy grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know
And thee, through endless time confessed,
Of both eternal Spirit blest.

All glory while the ages run
Be to the Father and the Son,
Who gave us life; the same to thee,
O Holy Ghost, eternally.
Amen.

The bishop rises and imposes his right hand upon the head of each ordinand, saying to each:

Bishop: Receive the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a deacon in the church of God.

The bishop with both hands extended towards the ordinands, who kneel before her/him, says the following prayer, momentarily holding the crozier when making the sign of the cross over the ordinands:

Bishop: O God the Holy Spirit, who has deigned to descend upon these your servants in spirit and power, strengthen them with your sevenfold might for the faithful performance of this ministry. May that power ever flow forth in their actions and kindle their speech; may they be resolute and steadfast in the service of their fellow people so that, having always the witness of a good conscience, they may continue strong and stable in Christ, pillars in the temple of our God, who with the Father and the Son lives and reigns God throughout all ages of ages.

All: Amen.

The bishop is seated and vests each new deacon with a white stole, which is placed over the left shoulder and fastened under the right arm. He makes the sign of the cross over the heart of each new deacon and says:

Bishop: Take the white + stole as a symbol of your office, remembering that as for the service and love of mankind by the power which is now in you, so it will flow through you in ever greater fullness and glory.

The bishop vests each new deacon with a dalmatic, saying:

Bishop: The Lord clothe you with the vesture of gladness and ever encompass you with the dalmatic of justice. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

All: Amen.

The bishop delivers to each new deacon a book of the Gospels, saying:

Bishop: Take authority to read the Gospels in the church of God, both for the living and the dead. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

All: Amen.

The bishop rises and blesses the new deacon(s):

Bishop: O Christ the Lord of Love who, by the heavenly and earthly service of angels which you order; shed over all the elements the efficacy of Your Will, pour out on these servants the fullness of Your + blessing that, in the fellowship of those glorious angels, they may minister worthily at your holy altars and, being endowed with heavenly virtue and grace, they may ever be watchful and zealous in the service of your church, O Lord who reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The celebration of Eucharist continues, one of the new deacons, vested in dalmatic reading the gospel.

The Gospel

The Gospel ended, the deacon says:

Deacon: Here ends the Gospel.

All: Praise be to You O Christ.

The Mass continues. In the prayer of consecration, the following is added after the words: 'for all our bishops, clergy and faithful':

Especially for the new deacon(s) who in Christ's holy name we have admitted to the order of the diaconate'.

Please pray for the new deacon(s) in the coming weeks and again on the first anniversary of this occasion. Please also pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.