

CHAPTER

1

LITURGICAL ACTION

UNIFORMITY OF ACTION

1. When two or more are performing an action, e.g. genuflecting, bowing, walking, reciting a prayer, they should act *together* at the same time and with the same speed. Nothing is more conducive to the smoothness of a ceremony.

PRECEDENCE

- 2.** In all ceremonies, strict precedence is observed:
1. Superiors walk at the right of, or behind, inferiors; the place of dignity in a procession is at the end.¹
 2. When possible, inferiors cross behind, rather than in front of, superiors.
 3. Those of lower rank sit after those of higher rank, but rise before them.
 4. In the sanctuary those of higher rank sit on the Gospel side.

STANDING, SITTING, WALKING, TURNING

3. Standing. To stand for someone is a sign of reverence. Thus, in the Mass it is proper to rise at the Gospel because the Gospel is the word of God; similarly, the congregation rises for the celebrant who is about to greet them with the words *Dóminus vobíscum*.

4. Sitting. The position of sitting denotes authority to teach and rule. For this reason it is customary for the bishop to sit during a liturgical function.

5. Walking. Always walk erect, at a moderate pace, and without gazing about. Never walk backwards or sideways. When encountering an obstacle, step off to the right so that you will pass it at your left; e.g., when the sacristy is behind the altar, approach the altar from the Gospel side and leave it from the Epistle side. When mounting steps, always place your right foot first.

In passing an altar at which Mass is being celebrated:

1. If the Consecration is just taking place, kneel and bow; remain kneeling until the chalice has been replaced on the altar. Then bow, rise, and continue on your way.
2. After the Consecration, but before the Communion, genuflect on one knee.
3. If Communion is being distributed, make a double genuflection.

6. Turning. When walking alone:

1. Always turn toward the person or thing of greater dignity, e.g., the Blessed Sacrament, altar, bishop, celebrant. In cases of conflict of dignity, decide in favor of the nearer, e.g., at the altar turn toward it and away from the bishop or celebrant.
2. When you are free to turn either way, turn toward the right.
3. When walking with another, ordinarily, turn toward the person with whom you are walking. Under no circumstances should you turn your back to the Blessed Sacrament if it is exposed.

¹This refers to procession in which the celebrant is *vested*. If he wears only cassock and surplice, however, he leads the procession, and the order of dignity is reversed.

CHAPTER

2

LOW MASS

PREPARATION

7. The celebrant and servers bow to the sacristy cross. Acolyte two leads the way to the chapel and rings the bell. Acolyte one presents holy water to the celebrant.

8. Upon arriving at his place at the Gospel side, acolyte two stands in his place, acolyte one walks behind acolyte two to his place on the Epistle side, and the celebrant stands between them. Acolyte one takes the biretta from the celebrant, kissing first his hand, then the biretta. All three genuflect to the cross, the celebrant bowing if the Blessed Sacrament is not reserved.

9. The celebrant ascends the altar. Acolyte one places

the biretta on the sedillia. Acolyte two returns the way the procession came and closes the door to the sacristy. Both acolytes return to their places, one not waiting for the other.

MASS OF THE CATECHUMENS

OFFERTORY

CANON

COMMUNION

AFTER COMMUNION