

Assistant Priest at a First Mass

June 29, 2022

Preliminary Observations

1. It appears that the A.P. can even be a bishop, as prelates are not excluded, but rather included by the S.R.C.
2. To summarize the role of the A.P. : *Stand to the missal side of the Celebrant, and stay out of his way.*

Low Mass

Vesting

1. A.P. vested in surplice. If a prelate, the surplice must be worn over his rochet.
2. The use of a stole is permitted, but does not seem to be in conformity with liturgical law.
3. A.P. does not wear biretta.

Function

1. A.P. processes in to the left and a little in front of the C.
2. He steps back to allow the server to take the biretta from the C.
3. He kneels to the right and behind the C. for the prayers at the foot of the altar (the other server should be to the right of the A.P. , so that the A.P. is closest to the celebrant).
4. A.P. ascends the altar with the C. , and accompanies him to the epistle side, remaining at his right.

5. From the Introit to the Gospel, he stands to the right of the C. and accompanies him to the middle of the altar for the *Kyrie* and *Gloria*. He may turn the pages of the missal, as an M.C. would at high Mass, and indicate the prayers.
6. The server moves the missal. A.P. descends *per brevior* to the floor, at the center, genuflects, and goes to the left of the C.
7. After the Gospel, A.P. allows the C. the kiss the missal and move it towards the center himself. A.P. now remains to the left of C. , near the missal.
8. The A.P. has no function during the Offertory.
9. A.P. kneels on the footpace close to C. at the Elevation, and elevates the chasuble.
10. If Communion is distributed, the server recites the *Confiteor* and holds the paten. A.P. remains to the left of C.
11. After the ablutions, the servers move the missal, and the A.P. returns to the Epistle side the same way he came.
12. During the *Placeat* A.P. moves the the Gospel side corner, where he kneels for the blessing on the lowest step.
13. A.P. ascends to assist C. with the Last Gospel, stading to his left.
14. There are no prayers after low Mass. A.P. precedes the C. into the sacristy, standing a bit to his right.