

Private Consecration of a Portable Altar

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Preparation

Overview

1. A portable altar may be consecrated at any time.
2. For a private consecration, the crozier is not used at any time¹.
3. After the consecration, Mass is celebrated over the consecrated altar. This Mass may be said by the consecrating bishop or by a priest delegated by him.²

Setup

1. At the main altar:
 - (a) Stone is placed in the middle of the altar, if possible.
 - (b) Foldstool covered in white to the Epistle side, before the step.
2. On the altar to be consecrated³:
 - (a) A silver tray with the relic and three grains of incense; the tray should be covered with a silk, red veil⁴
3. On the same table, or on another table, which is covered by a white cloth:
 - (a) One small vessel of holy water with aspergillum.
 - (b) One small vessel with water to be consecrated.
 - (c) One small vessel with the Oil of the Catechumens.
 - (d) One small vessel with Chrism.
 - (e) Small quantity of ash in a metal dish.

¹Moretti, p. 477, ¶ 3053.

²Menghini, p. 315, ¶ 4. Therefore it is not necessary that the Bishop himself fulfill the rubric *jejuno tamen stomacho*, as is in the Pontificale.

³If the stone to be consecrated is small, then it is placed on a table which is covered by a white cloth. The sole purpose of this cloth is to absorb any oil that may flow from the stone.

⁴Moretti, p. 477 ¶ 3053.

- (f) Small quantity of salt in a metal dish.
- (g) Small quantity of wine in an ampulla.
- (h) One finger towel.
- (i) Aspergillum.

4. On the credence:

- (a) White stole.
- (b) Cloth-of-gold miter.

5. The servers:

- (a) Master of Ceremonies (MC)
- (b) Thurifer (TH)
- (c) Miter Bearer (MB)
- (d) Two Chaplains (Chs)

Preparation of the Bishop

B vested in a white stole over his rochet and the simple miter.

For the private consecration, B does not use crozier at any time.

The Bishop washes his hands⁵ before vesting.

Before the altar

1. B before the altar says: *Deus omnipoténtem...*
2. Without miter, which is removed by MC or Ch, B genuflects before the altar to be consecrated, saying: *Deus, in adiutorium meum intende*. Chs respond: *Dómine, ad adiuvándum me festína*. then B rises. Without miter, B says: *Glória Patri...*, choir responding.
3. This responsory is said three times, each time in a higher voice.

⁵Menghini, p. 317, ¶ 9

Blessing the Water

Exorcism of the Salt and the Water

1. B receives miter from MC or Ch.
2. B with miter and standing in the same place says *Exorcízo te, creatúra salis....* If the church is not being consecrated, then in the place of *hujus ecclésiæ et altáris* B reads only *hujus altáris*⁶.
3. B then without miter reads the versicles and the oration.
4. B receives the miter for the exorcism of the water, then removes it for the versicles and the oration, as before.

Blessing of the Ashes

1. Without miter, B, standing in the same place, blesses the ashes.
2. B takes the salt and mixes it with the ashes in the form of a cross saying: *Commíxtio salis, et cíneris páriter fiat. Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. R. Amen.*
3. Taking a handful of the salt and ashes, B sprinkles the mixture three times into the water saying: *Commíxtio salis, cíneris, et aquae páriter fiat. Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. R. Amen.*

Blessing of the Wine

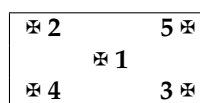
1. Without miter, B, standing in the same place, blesses the wine.
2. B takes the wine and pours it into the water in the form of a cross saying: *Commíxtio vini, salis, cíneris et aquae páriter fiat. Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. R. Amen.*
3. Without miter B reads the oration: *Omnípotens sempitérne Deus...*

⁶ibid. ¶ 10

Signing the Stone

Signing with the water

1. With miter, B takes the water⁷ with the thumb of his right hand and makes a single cross in the middle of the stone saying: *Sancti ✠ ficétur, et conse ✠ crétur haec tábula*, blessing with his right hand in the usual manner at *In nómine Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. Pax tibi.*
2. This signing is repeated in each corner of the altar, first on the Gospel side, back, then on the Epistle side, front, then on the Gospel side, front, then the Epistle side, back.



3. B wipes his thumb in a towel provided by MC, then is handed the aspergillum.
4. B intones the antiphon *Aspérget me* which he recites with Chs. Psalm 50 is then recited, followed by the antiphon; *Glória Patri* is omitted.
5. While the Psalm and Antiphon are being recited, *Pontifex cum mitra aspergit cum aspersorio de herba hyssopi facto de ipsa aqua tabulam, per ejus circuitum tribus vicibus.*

Incensation

1. The stone is wiped clean with a linen cloth.
2. B, without miter says the versicles and then the oration *Deus, qui es visibílium.*
3. The ministers say the antiphon: *Dirigatur oratio mea sicut incensum in conspectu tuo, Domine.*
4. After the antiphon is begun, B accepts miter and incenses the stone three times, circling it.

⁷The mixture of water, wine, ash and salt.

Anointing with Holy Oil

First anointing

1. After the incensation, B **intoness** the antiphon *Erexit Jacob*. The ministers continue the antiphon with B and recite Psalm 83 alternately with him, the *Glória Patri* begin omitted; the antiphon is repeated.
2. After the recitation of the antiphon and the psalm, B stands with miter, takes some Oil of the Catechumens on his right thumb, and signs the stone five times with clear crosses, in the same manner as before with the water.
3. The same formula is pronounced for each cross as before: *Sancti ✠ ficétur, et conse ✠ crétur haec tábula, In nómine Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. Pax tibi.*

First incensation

1. B with his ministers begins the antiphon *Dirigatur oratio mea sicut incensum in conspectu tuo, Domine.*
2. While the antiphon is being recited, B incenses the stone, circling it.
3. After the conclusion of the antiphon, B, without miter, says *Orémus*, the ministers answering *Flectámus génua, Leváte.* B recites the oration *Adsit, Dómine.*

Second anointing

1. B intones the antiphon *Mane surgens Jacob*; Chs recite the antiphon and Psalm 91 as before, the *Glória Patri* begin omitted.
2. After the recitation of the antiphon and the psalm, B stands with miter, takes some Oil of the Catechumens on his right thumb and again anoints the stone, as before.

Second incensation

1. B with his ministers begins the antiphon *Dirigatur oratio mea sicut incensum in conspectu tuo, Domine.*
2. While the antiphon is being recited, B incenses the stone, circling it.
3. After the conclusion of the antiphon, B, without miter, says *Orémus*, the ministers answering *Flectámus génua, Leváte.* B recites the oration *Adesto, Dómine.*

Third anointing

1. B intones the antiphon *Unxit te, Deus*; Chs recite the antiphon and Psalm 45 as before, the *Glória Patri* begin omitted.
2. After the recitation of the antiphon and the psalm, B stands with miter, takes some Chrism on his right thumb and again anoints the stone, as before.

Third incensation


1. B imposes and blesses incense.
2. B with his ministers begins the antiphon *Dirigatur oratio mea sicut incensum in conspectu tuo, Domine.*
3. While the antiphon is being recited, B incenses the stone, circling it.
4. After the conclusion of the antiphon, B, without miter, says *Orémus*, the ministers answering *Flectámus génua, Leváte.* B recites the oration *Exáudi nos, Deus noster.*

Anointing the Confession

1. Having concluded the oration, B with miter takes Chrism with his right thumb and anoints the confession in the middle saying *Conse ✠ crétur, et sancti ✠ ficétur hoc sepélcum. In nómine Pa ✠ tris, et Fí ✠ lii, et Spíritus ✠ Sancti. Pax huic domui.*

2. B, without miter, places the relics with three grains of frankincense on the stone, or on the altar, and he closes the confession.
3. B stands without miter and says: *Orémus. Deus, qui ex ómnium cohabitatióne...*

Cleaning the Stone

1. B intones the antiphon *Ecce odor*; Chs recite the antiphon and Psalm 86 as before, the *Glória Patri* begin omitted.
2. While the antiphon and the psalm are being recited, B with miter cleanses the stone of all the oil. 
3. ~~After the conclusion of the psalm,~~ B standing with miter says: *Lápidem hunc...*
4. B intones the *Aedificavit Moyses* which he continues with the Chs.
5. Afterwards, B standing with miter says: *Dei Patris omnipoténtis.*

Burning of Incense on the Altar

1. B stands without miter before the altar, with the incense to be burned on the altar, says the versicles and the oration *Dómine, Deus omnípotens...*
2. B sprinkles the incense with holy water and takes up the miter.
3. With his own hand B makes five crosses of five grains; each cross is placed over the one of the five spots previously anointed.
4. Over each cross of incense he places a cross of thin candle (taper), to measure the cross of the grains of incense, and the top of each cross is lit, and with the incense it is burnt.
5. All of the crosses having been lit, B without miter kneels before the altar and recites with

the ministers the verse: *Allelúia*⁸. *V. Veni, Sancte Spíritus,...*

6. After the versicle is concluded, ~~B stands before the altar without miter and recites with~~ Chs the antiphons *Ascéndit fumus* and *Stetit Angelus*.
7. After the conclusion of the antiphons, B says *Orémus*, the ministers answering *Flectámus génua, Leváte*. B recites the oration *Súplices tibi*.

Preface

1. After the oration, B, in the same place and with hands extended, reads the preface in the middle voice.
2. He reads the conclusion *Per Dominum nostrum...* in a lower voice, so it can be heard only by the bystanders.

Post Preface

1. B intones and then recites with the Chs the antiphon *Confirma hoc*, which is repeated.
2. B reads the oration: *Quaesumus omnípotens Deus.*
3. B intones the antiphon *Omnis terra adoret.*
4. B accepts the miter and incenses the altar in the form of a cross while he recites the antiphon⁹.
5. B without miter says oration *Descéndat, quaesumus.*

Conclusion

1. After the oration, B proceeds to the faldstool, where he removes the miter and, stole and pectoral cross and resumes the mantelletta with the pectoral cross.

⁸The *Allelúia* being omitted if the ceremony take place between Septuagesima and Easter.

⁹Moretti, p. 479

2. If the B is to say the Mass, then he prepares himself; otherwise another priest may prepare for Mass.
3. The stone should be cleaned after the conclusion of the oration *Descéndat, quæsumus*.
4. The Mass is of the day of the dedication of an altar.

References

- Menghini, I. B. M. *Manuale Sacrarum Cæremoniarum, vol. II*. Editio terita. Ratisbonæ - Romæ - Neo Eboraci: Fredericus Pustet, 1915
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