



Bishop's Customary for Ordinations to the Priesthood

Ordinations to the priesthood will normally take place in the parish of one's first call, at a time to be determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Rector. The Bishop will set tentative dates for upcoming ordinations. ***These dates are established for planning purposes only. No public announcements or invitations should be released until the Standing Committee has given its final approval and the Bishop has given his final consent.***

As often as possible, ordinations to the priesthood will take place on Feasts of the Church. In the case of Principal or Major Feasts, the Propers are to be those of the Feast. In the case of Lesser Feasts, the Propers may be those of the Feast, of Ordination, or an appropriate combination of the two, approved by the Bishop. For ordinations that do not take place on feasts, the Propers will be those for the ordination of a priest. Except in the most exceptional of circumstances, there will be no ordinations in Lent.

The liturgical color is that of the feast, principal, major, or lesser. For ordinations that do not take place on feasts, the color of the ordination will be red.

The ordinand is to vest in a plain alb (that means white) wearing no insignia of office. Clerical attire is a modern adaptation of a cassock for convenient street wear. Cassocks for deacons and priests are black. That's a hint. Powder blue, olive green, brown, or white (unless covered by a rabat) are trivializations that should be avoided. Folks who refuse to wear black may be indicating their discomfort with their vocation and are inviting others to take them less seriously.

The Prayer Book only requires two presenters, a priest and a layperson. It is fine to have additional presenters, but if the group gets too large then it is difficult for the congregation to see and participate easily. Although family, close friends and supporters, and seminary classmates are often invited, please remember that the parish you serve has called you to this ministry and it is their call to you, on behalf of the whole church, that makes it possible for the ordination to proceed. The parish you serve should be properly represented among the presenters.

As provided by the Prayer Book, it is the Bishop's prerogative to be the Preacher at all liturgies at which the Bishop presides. Therefore, you should expect that the Bishop will preach at the ordination. From time to time, the Bishop will yield the preaching to another by inviting a priest to be the preacher. When the Bishop is not preaching, the ordinand will be consulted on the choice of a preacher, but the choice is ultimately the Bishop's. The invitation to the preacher will come from the Bishop, not the ordinand.

Normally, two deacons involved are in the ordination: the Bishop's Deacon and the Deacon of the Liturgy. Normally the deacons chosen should be deacons of the diocese of the bishop's jurisdiction. If there are deacons assigned to the parish in which the

ordination takes place, out of courtesy those deacons should serve. The Bishop's Deacon accompanies the Bishop and assists with the book, miter, pastoral staff, and serves communion with the Bishop. The Deacon of the Liturgy reads the Gospel, prepares the altar, and serves communion with the new priest, and sings the dismissal. There is no need for a chaplain for the Bishop.

The Litany for Ordination is to be sung.

Since prostration is simply kneeling taken to its obvious conclusion, the ordinand may lie prostrate or kneel during the Litany for Ordinations. If prostration is chosen, please do it correctly: face down, arms outstretched. This is no time for a nap.

Lay persons should read the first two readings. The Deacon of the Liturgy should read (or chant) the Gospel. The Deacon need not go to the Bishop for a blessing before reading the Gospel. The Deacon's ordination conferred all the blessing and authorization required to read the Gospel in the liturgy.

At the time of The Consecration of the Priest, the Bishop's Deacon is to stand on the Bishop's left and hold the Prayer Book. The Deacon of the Liturgy is to stand on the Bishop's right to receive the miter when the Bishop removes it for the ordination prayers.

At the time of the vesting of the new priest, the stole should be given to the Bishop who will place the stole around the neck of the new priest. Others present may then vest the new priest in a chasuble. A pectoral cross is a sign of the ministry of bishops and is not a part of the vesture or street dress of deacons or priests.

After the Bible has been given to the new priest by the Bishop, other instruments or symbols of office may be given after consultation with the Bishop. The latter practice is neither encouraged nor discouraged.

After the post-communion prayer, the Bishop will ask the new priest to bless the people.

All questions or clarifications should be addressed to the Bishop.

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