

Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion within Mass

(taken from the Book of Blessings, Chapter 63)

After the Gospel and homily, the rite of commissioning takes place.

In the homily, it may be appropriate to explain the meaning of this celebration.

Presentation of the Candidates

The celebrant presents to the people those chosen to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

In these or similar words:

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, **{insert names of all candidates}** are to be entrusted with distributing Holy Communion at Mass; with taking Communion to the sick; and with giving it as viaticum to the dying. Today, we commission them to provide this important ministry for our parish community.

The deacon invites the candidates forward or to stand in their place.

Deacon: Will those to be commissioned as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion please come forward (or, please stand.)

The celebrant pauses, and then addresses the candidates to be commissioned.

Celebrant: In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct;
you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love.
Remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup.

As extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion be, therefore, especially observant of the Lord's command to love your neighbor.

For when he gave his body as food to his disciples, he said to them:

“This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you.”

Examination

Then the celebrant asks the following questions:

Celebrant: Are you resolved to undertake the office of giving the body and blood of the Lord to your brothers and sisters, and so serve to build up the Church?

Candidates: I am.

Celebrant: Are you resolved to administer the holy Eucharist with the utmost care and reverence?

Candidates: I am.

Prayer of Blessing

The deacon invites all to stand for the prayer of blessing, and for the candidates to kneel (if they are able, otherwise they remain standing):

Deacon: I invite the congregation to stand for the Prayer of Blessing [and the candidates to please kneel - if appropriate].

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, let us pray with confidence to the Father; let us ask him to bestow his blessing on our brothers and sisters, chosen to be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Pause for silent prayer. The celebrant continues:

Gracious Lord, you nourish us with the body and blood of your Son, that we might have eternal life. Bless ✠ our brothers and sisters who have been chosen to give the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation to your faithful people. May the saving mysteries they distribute lead them to the joys of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Universal Prayer follows. The following intercessions may be used in their entirety, adapted, or inserted into the parish's Universal Prayer.

Celebrant: The Lord feeds and nourishes us with his life-giving body and blood. Let us pray that these ministers of communion be ever faithful to their responsibility of distributing Holy Communion in our community.

Deacon: For our ministers of Holy Communion, that they witness by their deep faith in the Eucharist to the saving mystery of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: For the Church, that the eucharist we celebrate always be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for all who partake, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: For the sick who will receive holy communion from these ministers, that Christ heal and strengthen them, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all who are present here, that the bread of life and cup of salvation we receive at the altar always be our nourishment, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The celebrant then says:

Celebrant: Lord our God,
teach us to cherish in our hearts the Paschal Mystery of
your Son, by which you redeemed the world.
Watch over the gifts of grace your love has given us and
bring them to fulfillment in the glory of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows as usual. Some of the newly commissioned
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may carry the gifts forward.

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