

Order for the Commissioning within Mass of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *(from the Book of Blessings, Chapter 63)*

After the Gospel reading, the celebrant in the homily, based on the sacred text and pertinent to the particular place and the people involved, explains the meaning of the celebration

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The celebrant presents to the people those chosen to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion using these or similar words:

Dear friends in Christ, our brothers and sisters are to be entrusted with administering the Eucharist, with taking communion to the sick, and with giving it as viaticum to the dying.

The celebrant pauses and then addresses the candidates:

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

After the address the candidates stand before the celebrant, who asks them these questions:

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.

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

Candidates: I am.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

All stand. The candidates kneel (if possible) and the celebrant invites the faithful to pray:

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

Pause for silent prayer. The celebrant then continues:

Merciful Father,
creator and guide of your family,
bless † our brothers and sisters.

May they faithfully give the bread of life to your people.

**Strengthened by this sacrament,
may they come at last to the banquet of heaven.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: *Amen.*

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form found below. The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the prayer of blessing. From the following intentions those best for the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The celebrant says:

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.

Assisting minister:

For our ministers of communion, that they witness by their deep faith in the eucharist to the saving mystery of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. R

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

For the sick who will receive holy communion from these ministers, that Christ heal and strengthen them, let us pray to the Lord. R

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

The celebrant then says:

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.*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

In the procession at the presentation of gifts, the newly-commissioned ministers carry the vessels with the bread and wine, and at communion may receive the eucharist under both kinds.