



# Celebration of the Eucharist at which the Bishop Presides

## Introduction

1. We read in the Ceremonial of Bishops: “The Bishop himself is the chief steward of the mysteries of God and the overseer, promoter, and guardian of all liturgical life in the particular church entrusted to his care”. Therefore, the preeminent manifestation of the local Church is present when the bishop celebrates the Eucharist, surrounded by his presbyters and ministers, and with the full, active participation of all God’s holy people. Thus a Eucharistic liturgy at which a bishop is the principal celebrant takes on a special character and dignity.
2. The liturgical reform of Vatican II, while maintaining the need for cultural adaptations within specific circumstances, was very specific on the development of the reform at the local level. The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy states that the “regulation of the sacred liturgy depends solely on the Church, that is, on the Apostolic See and, as laws may determine, on the bishop. **Therefore, absolutely no person, not even a priest, may add, remove or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority**”.
3. In his task of overseeing the liturgy of the local church, the bishop is assisted by the Secretariat of Leadership and Parish Life, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission on Liturgy and Spirituality, and his Master of Ceremonies. The Bishop’s Master of Ceremonies has the final say in the preparation and carrying out of any liturgical event involving the bishop. The Bishop has instructed him in the ways in which things are to be done therefore his instructions are to be strictly followed.
4. Simplicity is an important element in planning liturgies. Time is also a pressing factor. All effort should be made to see that nothing unnecessarily adds to the length of a ceremony. The more simple and straight forward it is, the more pleasing it is to the Bishop.
5. **Music is an integral element in liturgy. It is important to remember, however, that it is simply one element. Excess music can detract from the liturgy and unnecessarily add to its length. Silence, it should be remembered, is also an important element of the liturgy, wherever it is recommended.**
6. There is to be no liturgical movement/dancing during the liturgies at which the Bishop celebrates. Exceptions may be made for certain cultural expressions. As a general norm, however, refrain from any kind of dance during the liturgy.
7. The readings used at the liturgy at which the bishop celebrates will be the readings of the day.

## Arrival and Preparation of the Bishop

8. The Bishop will arrive roughly a half hour before the ceremony. A convenient parking space should be reserved for him, and his Master of Ceremonies should be informed of its location.
9. The Bishop will vest in the sacristy. An adjacent bathroom should also be made available to him so that he can freshen up before or after the ceremony.
10. The Bishop will bring his own chasuble. Please check the ordo for the proper color for concelebrants and other visiting bishops. The pastor should always wear a chasuble. Other concelebrating priests may wear just an alb and stole if chasubles are not available for them.

## Pre-Liturgical Processions

11. The pre-liturgical procession, if needed, should be timed in such a way that the liturgical procession begins at the exact time at which the Mass is scheduled. Scheduled prior to that time would be banner bearers, confirmandi, graduates, etc. **The liturgical procession, which includes only the liturgical ministers, should begin at the time at which the mass is scheduled.**

## Introductory Rites

12. The order of procession is as follows: thurifer (if incense is used), the cross bearer, two candle bearers (if used), other servers, book of the Gospels, carried by a deacon if present, the concelebrating priests, two deacon chaplains(if used), the Bishop, the Master of Ceremonies(if present) and Miter and Crosier bearers.
13. As each member of the liturgical procession reaches the foot of the sanctuary, he/she will bow and go directly to his/her place in the sanctuary. Do not have everyone line up to bow together. They are to bow two by two as they reach the foot of the sanctuary and go directly to their places.
14. The entrance hymn should be just long enough to last as the procession is walking down the aisle and until the bishop reaches the presidential chair.
15. **If the day requires a Gloria, the Gloria is to be sung. If the day does not require a Gloria, one should not be added. Please check the ordo.**

## Liturgy of the Word

16. The readings are to be taken from the readings of the day. A second reading ought not to be added if it is not part of the readings of the day.
17. It is always preferable to sing the responsorial psalm.
18. During the singing of the Alleluia, all but the bishop stand. If a deacon is present, the deacon is to read the gospel. If a deacon is not present, it is preferable that the pastor read the gospel. The person who is to read the gospel goes to the bishop to receive his blessing. He then proceeds to the Ambo to proclaim the gospel.
19. The Bishop will preach, unless otherwise arranged. Please have a wireless microphone or one with a long cord available.

20. After the homily, the bishop will introduce the Creed, if the rubrics of the day call for one. If they do not, he will move directly to the Prayers of the Faithful.
21. The Bishop will introduce the Prayers of the Faithful. If a deacon is present, the deacon will read the Prayer of the Faithful, if a deacon is not the reader will. Four intercessions are sufficient. The first should deal with the needs of the Church, the second for those in public authority, the third for those oppressed by any need, and the fourth for the local community. The Bishop will then conclude the intercessions with a prayer. All will sit for the offertory procession.

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

22. The offertory procession is to take place in as simple a manner as possible. Those presenting gifts walk down the center aisle to the sanctuary. The gifts presented ought to be the bread and wine needed for the celebration of the Eucharist. Extra symbols should not be added.
23. Concelebrating priests are to remain in their places until the Bishop finishes the prayer over the gifts. They may then come forward to the altar for the Preface.
24. Communion is to be distributed in as timely a manner as possible. The Bishop will give communion to the deacons and the servers. He will then proceed to the center aisle, usually with the Pastor. All the other concelebrants, deacons and, if needed, extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist should immediately distribute the Eucharist to the rest of the congregation.
25. After he finishes distributing communion, the Eucharist should be combined at the altar and then taken to the tabernacle. The Bishop will return to the presidential chair to wash his hands with water.
26. Communion songs should be long enough to cover the time needed to distribute communion, wash the Bishop's hands and return the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle. The music should not extend beyond that.
27. All will stand as the Bishop says the Prayer after Communion.

### **Closing Rites**

28. If announcements must be made, they may be made after the Prayer after Communion. **They should be brief to non-existent** (No more than 2 minutes). The Bishop will give the final blessing. If a deacon is present, he says the dismissal. If a deacon is not present, the Bishop will dismiss.
29. The Bishop will kiss the altar and move to the front of the altar to stand facing it. The servers will line up in the center aisle and if additional deacons are present, they will line up in the center aisle as well. The concelebrating priests and Deacon of the Word and Deacon of the Eucharist may stand on either side of him. All will bow together, turn around and process out.
30. If there had been a pre-liturgical procession (of confirmandi, graduates, etc.), they should stay in their places or walk out behind the liturgical procession.
31. The Bishop will greet people at the door of the church, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

**All of the above guidelines should be followed for the Sacrament of Confirmation, with the following additions:**

32. The ordinary minister of Confirmation is the Bishop. Normally a Bishop confers the sacrament so that there will be a clearer reference to the first pouring fourth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
- 33. The color of the vestments will be red, unless the day requires another color (such as a solemnity, an obligatory memorial or Advent and Lent).**
34. If the confirmandi are to process, they are to do so prior to the liturgical procession. They may be led in procession by the paschal candle (except during the Lenten season) to recall the relationship between the Sacrament of Baptism and that of Confirmation.
- 35. The readings will always be the readings of the day. No exceptions.**
36. After the Gospel is proclaimed, all sit. The Pastor presents the candidates. This is to be a simple statement that the candidates have been prepared and are ready to receive the sacrament. All parishes present should be announced. **Do not introduce the candidates by name.**
37. The Bishop will give the homily. Please have a microphone available that enables the Bishop to walk to the front pews to talk with the confirmandi.
38. After the homily, all will stand for the renewal of Baptismal promises.
- 39. The Bishop alone will raise his hands and pray for the invocation of the Holy Spirit.**
40. The Bishop will receive his miter and crosier for the anointing. He will bring his own chrism, which the pastor or server will hold for him. Please see that the confirmandi come before the Bishop quickly and smoothly. **Only the sponsor comes with the candidate and stands directly behind him/her with his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder. It is preferable that the confirmandi come up two by two so that two confirmandi are standing in front of the Bishop as if they were coming up to receive the Eucharist. Have them stand close to him so that he can reach them easily with the chrism.** The other concelebrating priests will stand in the sanctuary on the left or right of the Bishop, not beside him. The only person standing beside the Bishop would be a deacon or server holding the sacred chrism.
41. When the anointing is done, the Bishop will wash his hands. He will need a pitcher, a basin, cut lemon and a thick towel. While the pitcher and basin need to be ample enough to wash the oil off, they should not be so large and heavy that the servers cannot carry them. While he is washing his hands, a deacon or reader will move into place for the Prayers of the Faithful. Once the Bishop has finished washing his hands, any music should stop.
42. The Creed is not said, as the renewal of Baptismal promises takes its place. After washing his hands, the Bishop will stand to introduce the Prayers of the Faithful.
43. The bishop does not want to give communion to all the confirmandi by himself, while everyone else waits. The Pastor should assist him, and all other communion stations should begin immediately. Please see that communion flows quickly and smoothly.

**44. The Bishop will be more than happy to take photos 30 minutes prior to confirmation. stay for photographs. Photographs will be taken with Confirmandi and Sponsors only. NO FAMILY PHOTOS and NO GROUP PHOTOS will be taken with the Bishop. Please follow the Diocese of Orlando Photography Guidelines.**

Created: March 3, 2019

Revised: September 14, 2022