

GENERAL LITURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The pastor or his designate is responsible for setting up for the ceremony. Check all preparation in church, making sure all the necessary vessels and books are in place and correctly marked. Check the microphones. The altar (with or without altar cloth) should be bare when the celebration begins. If at all possible, there should be a deacon for the ceremony.
2. Please make every effort to start the ceremony on time.
3. Directions to concelebrants: All will reverence (kiss) the altar at the beginning. Only the bishop and deacon kiss the altar at the end of Mass.
4. Procession. The candidates and their sponsors should be in place before Mass starts. **If** they are to process in, it should be in two straight **uninterrupted** lines. This procession should not resemble a high school graduation, which concept we are seeking to be separate from, both in appearance and in understanding of the sacrament. If having a procession, line up candidates and procession should begin approximately 2 minutes before ceremony starts. Reverent pace. Mitre and crosier bearers walk last behind the bishop. Concelebrating priests walk immediately in front of the bishop. All concelebrants and servers are to sit off to the side. The bishop's chair is by itself (except for: the deacon, if present, who sits on the bishop's right.) When the bishop gets to the sanctuary entrance, he will hand the crosier and mitre to the mitre and crosier bearers who are behind the bishop. As the bishop goes to the altar to reverence it, the crosier and mitre bearers go to their places.
5. When the bishop sits for the readings, he wears the mitre.
6. When the bishop stands for the "Alleluia," take the mitre and give him the crosier. The deacon or a priest proclaims the Gospel. Take the crosier after the gospel.
7. A deacon or server (not any priest) is needed to hold the Confirmation Ritual book for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the prayer over the candidates (the latter during which all priests impose hands with the bishop). After the actual Confirmation ritual ("Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"), the bishop returns to the chair for the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions). When the intercessions begin, the gift bearers should immediately proceed to the station of the gifts (bread and wine only, (and collection if held) not water, or anything else, in preparation for the procession of the gifts to the altar after the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions).
8. Universal Prayer (General Intercessions)
 - a) Make sure that the person reading the petitions is prepared to read the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) immediately after the Confirmations are complete or after the Profession of Faith (for Masses with the Creed prescribed).
Universal Prayer (General Intercessions: Rite of Confirmation) is found in Confirmation documents on diocesan website.
9. Preparation of the Gifts
 - a) The bishop with the servers (and deacon) goes to receive the gifts (no concelebrants).
 - b) The pastor or deacon assisted by the servers prepares the altar - corporal, the chalice(s), the purificator, and the Roman Missal.
 - c) The pastor or deacon puts wine and water in the vessels. (This is done even before the bishop takes the paten and raises it above the altar.)
 - d) The bishop (and deacon) alone is/are at the altar for the preparation of the gifts. Concelebrants do not approach the altar until the Eucharistic Prayer.
 - e) For the presentation of the gifts to the altar procession, proper liturgical practice dictates that only the bread and wine (and collection proceeds, where applicable) should be brought up. ***Do not bring forward the water cruet or extraneous materials. The water container should already be on the altar during the preparation of the table before the gifts procession.***

- 1) Only the bread and wine and their containers (and by exception, the collection when one is taken up) are brought in procession in the Presentation of the Gifts. Not the water, not chalices, not anything else. This is standard prescribed practice for every Catholic Eucharist, not just Confirmation.
- 2) Those in procession should go to the place of these gifts immediately as the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) are begun. The procession begins immediately after the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions).

Rationale and purpose: The first prescription follows the proper liturgical norms of the Church. The second prevents awkward commotion and needless delay in enacting this part of the ritual.

- f) Where advisable, at the Lamb of God, the pastor or deacon may bring a ciborium from the tabernacle to the main altar for use if the number of hosts consecrated at that Mass is insufficient. Previously consecrated hosts from the tabernacle should not be mingled with the newly consecrated ones, but only used as backup.
10. The mitre and crosier are needed for the last blessing after the communion prayer. After the post communion prayer, the pastor thanks various people (by name or category). The bishop thanks the pastor (and vicar, where applicable). Then the bishop recognizes the newly confirmed and offers a prayer of commissioning over them. The commissioning prayer substitutes for the Solemn Blessing Form. The Simple Blessing Form is used (May almighty God bless you...)
 11. Concelebrants bow to the altar; only bishop and deacon kiss it.
 12. All process out in the order in which they entered.