



The Institution of Readers and Acolytes According to the Rites of the Catholic Church of the Americas

The acolyte is instituted for service at the altar and to assist the priest and deacon. It is his/her place principally to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels and, if necessary, to distribute the Eucharist to the faithful as an extraordinary minister.

The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, except for the Gospel. He or she may also announce the intentions of the faithful and, in the absence of a psalmist, recite the Psalm between the readings.

In the absence of an instituted acolyte, there may be deputed lay ministers to serve at the altar and assist the priest and deacon; these carry the cross, the candles, the thurible, the bread, the wine, and the water, or who are even deputed to distribute Holy Communion as extraordinary ministers.

In the absence of an instituted lector, other lay people may be deputed to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, people who are truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing the readings from the sacred texts the people may conceive in their heart a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture.

The role of acolyte and lector should not be referred to as *minor orders*. Their conferral will not be called *ordination*, but *institution*.

Such ministries may be assigned to lay Christians; hence they are not to be considered as reserved to candidates for the sacrament of orders.

The ministry of the *subdiaconate* does not exist in the Catholic Church of the Americas – nor does the use of tonsure.

An acolyte may be entrusted with publicly exposing the Blessed Sacrament for adoration by the faithful and afterward replacing it, but not with blessing of the people.

The ministries can be administered by the Ordinary, his or her representative, or the major superior of a clerical institute.

Institution of Readers

The institution of reader can be carried out either within Mass or at a celebration of the word of God.

Liturgy of the Word

The readings are taken in whole or in part from the liturgy of the day or, alternatively, from the texts listed at the end of this ritual.

Calling of the Candidates

After the Gospel, the bishop, wearing his/her miter, sits and the appointed priest or deacon calls the candidates.

R Those to be instituted in the ministry of reader, please come forward.

The candidates are called by name, and each one answers,

V Present.

And goes to the bishop, before whom he/she makes a sign of reverence.

Homily

All sit. The bishop gives the homily, which he/she concludes by speaking to the candidates in these or similar words:

Dear sons and daughters in Christ,
through Jesus, who became flesh for us,
God the Creator has revealed the mystery
of salvation and brought it to fulfillment.
Jesus Christ made all things known to us
and then entrusted the Church
with the mission of preaching the Gospel
to the whole world.

As readers and bearers of God's word
you will assist in this mission
and so, take on a special office
within the Christian community;
you will be given a responsibility
in the service of the faith,

which is rooted in the Word of God.
You will proclaim that word
in the liturgical assembly,
instruct children and adults in the faith,
and prepare them
to receive the sacraments worthily.
You will bring the message of salvation
to those who have not yet received it.
Thus, with your help,
men and women will come to know
God, Our Creator, and Jesus Christ,
whom God sent,
and so, be able to receive the Holy Spirit.

In proclaiming God's word to others,
accept it yourselves
in obedience to the Holy Spirit.
Meditate on it constantly,
so that each day
you will have a deeper love of the Scriptures,
and in all you say and do
show forth to the world our Savior Jesus Christ.

Invitation to Prayer

All stand. The bishop, without his/her miter, invites the people to pray.

Brothers and sisters,
let us ask God our Creator
to bless these servants
who have been chosen
for the ministry of reader.

Let us pray that they may be faithful
to the work entrusted to them,
proclaim Christ to the world,
and so, give glory to our Heavenly Creator.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Prayer

Then the bishop, with hands joined, continues:

Lord, God, source of all goodness and light,
you sent your only Child, the Word of life,
to reveal to humanity the mystery of your love.

Bless ☩ our brothers and sisters
who have been chosen
for the ministry of reader.
Grant as they meditate
constantly on your word
they may grow in its wisdom
and faithfully proclaim it to your people.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

R̄ Amen.

Institution

Each candidate goes to the bishop, who gives him or her the Bible saying:

Take this book of Holy Scripture
and be faithful
in handing on the Word of God,
so that it may grow strong
in the hearts of God's people.

Reader: Amen.

Meanwhile, Psalm 19 or another appropriate song may be sung, especially if there are many candidates.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

If the institution of readers takes place during Mass, the Mass continues as usual. If the institution takes place during a celebration of the word, the bishop blesses the assembly and dismisses it in the usual manner.

Institution of Acolytes

Introduction

The bishop or his/her representative or superior of a clerical religious institute carries out the institution of acolytes, within Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

The readings are taken whole or in part from the liturgy of the day or, alternative, from the lists at the end of this rite.

Calling of the Candidates

After the Gospel, the bishop wearing his or her miter, sits, and the appointed deacon or priest calls the candidates.

Those to be instituted in the ministry of acolyte please come forward.

The candidates are called by name, and each one responds

Candidate Present

And goes to the bishop, before whom he or she makes a sign of reverence.

Homily

All sit. The bishop gives the homily, which he or she concludes by speaking to the candidates in these or similar words:

Dear sons and daughters in Christ,
as people chosen for the ministry of acolyte,
you will have a special role
in the Church's ministry.
The summit and source of the Church's life
is the Eucharist,

which builds up the Cristian community and makes it grow.

It is your responsibility to assist priests and deacons in carrying out their ministry, and as special ministers to give holy communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick.

Because you are especially called to this ministry, you should strive to live more fully by the Lord's sacrifice and to be molded more perfectly in its likeness. You should seek to understand the deep spiritual meaning of what you do, so that you may offer yourselves daily to God as spiritual sacrifices accepted to God through Jesus Christ.

In performing your ministry, bear in mind that, as you share the one bread with your brothers and sisters, so, you form one body with them.

Show a sincere love for Christ's Mystical Body,
God's Holy people,
and especially for the weak and the sick.
Be obedient to the commandment
which the Lord gave to his apostles
at the Last Supper:
"Love one another as I have also loved you."

Invitation to Prayer

All stand. The bishop, without her or his miter, invites the people to pray:

Brothers and sisters.
Let us pray to the Lord
for those chosen by God
to serve in the ministry of acolyte.
Let us ask God to fill them with blessing
and strengthen them
for faithful service in the Church.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

Prayer

The bishop, with hands joined, continues:

God of mercy
through your only Child you entrusted the
Bread of Life to Your Church.

Bless  our brothers and sisters
who have been chosen
for the ministry of acolyte.

Grant that they may be faithful
in the service of your altar
and in giving to others the bread of life;
may they grow always in love and faith,
and so, build up your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

 Amen.

Institution

Each candidate goes to the bishop, who gives him or her a
vessel with the bread and wine to be consecrated saying:

Take this vessel with bread and wine
for the celebration of the Eucharist.
Make your life worthy of your service
at the table of the Lord and of the Church.

Acolyte Amen.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

At the preparation of the gifts, the acolytes (or some of them, if the number is large) present the patens with the bread and the chalice with the wine.

The acolytes receive communion immediately after the deacons.

In the Mass of Institution the bishop may direct the acolytes as a special minister to help in giving communion to the faithful.

Biblical Readings

For the Institution of Readers

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Deut. 6:3-9

Keep these words in your heart

Deut. 30:10-14

Let the instruction of the Lord be near you.

Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Cor. 2:1-5

I have told you of the mystery of God.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

A Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching.

Heb. 4:12-13

The Word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 John 1:1-4

What we have seen and heard we are making known to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19:8-11

R Your Words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Psalm 119: 9-12

R Lord, teach me your decrees.

Psalm 147:15-20

R Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

John 6:64b and 69b

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
You have the words of everlasting life.

Acts 16:14b

Open our hearts, O Lord,
To listen to the words of your Child.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
The Spirit sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

GOSPEL

Matt 5:14-19

You are the light of the world.

Mark 1:35-39

He came preaching in their synagogues

Luke 4:16-21

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
The Spirit sent me to bring Good News to the Poor.

Luke 24:44-48

My teaching is not mine, but of the one who sent me.

For the Institution of Acolytes

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchisedeck offered bread and wine to God.

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

I will rain bread from heaven upon you.

Exodus 24:3-8

This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.

Deut. 8:2-3, 14b-16a

He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.

1 Kings 19:4-8

Strengthened by the food, he walked to the mountain of the Lord.

Proverbs 9:1-6

Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 2:42-47

They remained faithful in prayer and the breaking of the bread.

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with Jesus after his resurrection from the dead.

1 Cor 10:16-17

Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this loaf.

1 Cor 11:23-26

Until the Lord comes, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim his death.

Heb 9:11-15

The blood of Christ will purify our inner selves.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-6

℟️ The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 34: 2-11

℟️ Taste and see the Goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 78:3 and 4bc, 23-24, 25, 54

℟️ The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Psalm 110:1-4

℟️ You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchisedeck

Psalm 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

℟️ I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 145:10-11, 15-18

℟️ The hand of the Lord feeds us; the Lord answers all our needs.

Psalm 148:12-15, 19-20

R Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

ALLELUIA VERSE AND VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

John 6:57

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
Will live in me and I in them, says the Lord.

John 6:58

As the living Creator sent me, and I live because of the Creator,
So whoever feeds on me will live because of me.

John 6:35

The Lord says: I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
And whoever believes in me will never thirst.

John 6:51-52

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

This is my body. This is my blood.

Luke 9:11b-17

They all ate and were filled

Luke 24:13-35

They had recognized him at the breaking of the bread.

John 6:1-15

Jesus gave the food to those who were sitting around, as much as they wanted.

John 6:24-35

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.

John 6:41-52a

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

John 6:51-59

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

John 21:1-14

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and the same with the fish.