

CUSTOMARY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

The purpose this liturgy is to allow “the baptized and your colleagues to welcome and ritually support you in the challenging ministry you undertake—possibly the only or last experience of organized support you will receive. Let it happen. Let yourself be cared for.”

General Notes

- ✘ A Celebration of New Ministry begins on page 559 of the Book of Common Prayer. You may also use, in whole or part: *Enriching our Worship 4: The Renewal of Ministry with the welcoming of a New Rector*, available by download through Church Publishing or through the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Church Music.
- ✘ Please do *not* make this liturgy look or feel like an ordination.
- ✘ The Eucharist will be celebrated.
- ✘ Please be fully vested as a concelebrant of the Eucharist throughout the liturgy. (Any vestments you receive will be placed with the other ‘signs of ministry.’) The Bishop’s preference is chasuble and stole.
- ✘ It is recommended that you use a litany other than that for ordinations: A Litany for the Mission of the Church (Book of Occasional Services, p. 246) or A Litany of Thanksgiving for the Church (BCP, p. 578).
- ✘ Customarily, the Bishop will preach. If you have a request for another preacher, please speak directly to the Bishop.
- ✘ The color of the day is red or white; white always during Eastertide. Please inform the Bishop of your choice.
- ✘ Please have an experienced Minister of Ceremonies. It will make the liturgy run smoothly and allow you to relax and enjoy the worship.
- ✘ The Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Church Music is available to assist, if needed.
- ✘ Please make sure a copy of the bulletin is given to the Bishop’s office at least ten (10) days prior to the liturgy.

The following notes are based on the order of the liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. EOW4 follows the same general format, however.

The Institution

- ✘ The Bishop is seated in a place where all can see and hear. The congregation is seated.
- ✘ The Wardens may be joined by other presenters, if you wish.
- ✘ The Bishop, or someone appointed, may read the Letter of Institution.
- ✘ The litany is now sung. You kneel at a central place, the presenters return to their seats. Prostration is not appropriate.

At the Liturgy of the Word

- ✘ Please select the lessons, the lay persons to read them, and a gospel, to be read by a deacon (or another priest if a deacon does not accompany the bishop).
- ✘ You may choose to use the lessons appointed in the BCP or EOW4, or you may choose the lessons of the feast day, if appropriate.

- ✘ It is custom in this diocese for the deacon or priest reading the gospel to go to the bishop for a blessing before reading the gospel and return with the gospel book, still open, for the bishop to venerate.
- ✘ The Sermon follows, as do any responses, including words from you.
- ✘ A helpful response is for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows to take place (see EOW 4). The new Rector (or other minister) stands with the people, a symbol of “solidarity in discipleship.” A hymn is also appropriate.

The Induction

- ✘ The symbols of ministry are now presented. They should be large enough for all to see and remain visible throughout the Induction.
- ✘ Other symbols may be presented, if appropriate (i.e. something from the parish’s Day School). However, anything unusual (i.e. flowers or balloons) that might distract from the purpose of the symbols of ministry or that might draw attention to your personality (i.e. personal gifts) are more appropriate for the reception.
- ✘ You may then offer the prayer on BCP, p. 562, from the midst of the congregation.
- ✘ Standing near the Bishop, you will be presented to the congregation. Let the bishop know whether your family is to be presented with you, and if they are, the names of those family members who will be with you. Please also let the bishop know how you wish to be referred to in the third person. (*Academic or civil titles are not appropriate in this setting.*)
- ✘ You will then bid the Peace.

At the Eucharist

- ✘ The offering is usually designated to your discretionary fund. If you prefer some other designation, that is fine. Either way, the designation should be listed in the bulletin.
- ✘ You may choose any approved Eucharistic prayer.
- ✘ You will join the bishop at the altar.
- ✘ You may invite other “concelebrants” as you may desire and the space permits. Concelebration is practiced in this diocese as gestural only at the Words of Institution and the Eucharist. The Bishop will say the whole prayer; it is not to be divided.
- ✘ The concelebrants will communicate themselves.
- ✘ Please plan to distribute bread along with the bishop and to assign the chalices as you see fit. If for some reason there are not to be sufficient clergy to administer Communion, the prayer book provides for lay assistants.
- ✘ Please note the proper post-communion collect; it is best to print it in the service folder so that your Christian name (only), in the form you wish it used, will appear in the place designated.
- ✘ You will give the blessing and the dismissal follows.

Note: There may be unusual circumstances or pastoral reasons sufficient to make exceptions to the guidelines. Please do not hesitate to discuss any such concerns with the Bishop.

Suggested Hymns

This will be added shortly.

The customary has been adapted for use from: *The Bishop is Coming: A Practical Guide for Bishops and Congregations* by Paul Marshall (New York: Church Publishing, 2007). All quotes are taken from there unless otherwise noted.