

The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector or Other Pastor

Enriching Our Worship 4

Supplemental Liturgical Materials

prepared by

The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

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Concerning the Service

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer (1979) indicates that there are four categories of ministers, beginning with the laity. Baptism is seen as the sacrament that initiates Christians and empowers them for ministry. As articulated by one of the pioneers of renewed appreciation of baptismal ministry: "...there is one ministry of the one body, which is Christ's ministry as exercised through that body. All vocations contribute to the efficacy of that one ministry, expressed in mission. All baptized people – lay and ordained – participate in it according to the gifts given them." (Stewart C. Zabriskie, *Total Ministry*. 1995: Alban Institute, page 7) Hence, pastoral leadership and oversight both spring from and need to be celebrated within the community of the baptized.

From a baptismal-ministry frame of reference, the rite entitled "A Celebration of New Ministry" in the Book of Common Prayer focuses almost entirely upon the priest, with little recognition of the ongoing ministry of the congregation. Since the development of that rite, the imbalance has been noted and further attention has been paid by the Church to naming and celebrating the role of all the baptized.

The rite which follows, entitled "The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector or Other Pastor," incarnates mutuality among the ministers of the Church. By setting ordained leadership within the context of baptism, and commending a variety of gifts, this liturgy serves as an alternative to its predecessor, with the caveat that its differences from 1979 are intentional. "Blending" portions of the two liturgies is discouraged. Instead, adapting the rite to the requirements of architecture, culture, language, personnel and other resources of the congregation is expected. Rubrics within the rite offer suggestions and options.

The presence of the Bishop is assumed throughout, although a representative may function in that capacity. The Bishop's presence brings together the elements of mutuality and continuity. A rubric directs that "The Bishop states the purpose of the gathering," providing an opportunity for education and encouragement. It is the Bishop's prerogative to preside at the font and the table.

As an alternative to the Prayer Book rite "Celebration of a New Ministry," this order is for use when a priest is being instituted and inducted as the rector of the parish. It may also be used for the installation of deans of cathedrals, or the inauguration of other ministries, diocesan or parochial, including vicars of missions and assistant ministers. Alterations in the service are then made according to circumstances.

Primary symbols of ministry are presented within the liturgical context. At the time of the Offertory, other gifts may be brought to the altar which reflect the diversity already present in the congregation.

Suggested Propers

In addition to the Proper of the Day, suitable lessons may be selected from the following:

For All Baptized Christians

At Baptism

For the Mission of the Church

Feast of Title or Patronal Feast

Hymns and anthems should reflect themes of the lessons.

The Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector

Gathering of the Community

A hymn, psalm or anthem may be sung.

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

or this

Bishop Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

During Advent

Bishop Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost

Bishop Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

In Lent and on other penitential occasions

Bishop Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Bishop continues

People There is one Body and one Spirit;
Bishop There is one hope in God's call to us;
People One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God, Creator of all.

Bishop The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Bishop Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated. The Warden(s) stand near the Bishop.

The Bishop states the purpose of the gathering; and concludes

People of _____, you have reflected on your ministry and discerned your choice for a new *Rector*.

Wardens

We have chosen and called *N.N.* to be our *Rector*, and *he* has accepted.

Bishop

I commend your choice and affirm this call

The Letter of Institution (BCP, p. 557) is read. The Bishop continues

Are you, the people of _____, ready to continue in your ministry, with *N.* as your priest?

People We are.

The Wardens escort the Priest from the nave to the front of the assembly.

The Word of God

Representatives such as Lectors present the lectern Bible and say

N., with this Bible we proclaim and hear God's living Word. Join us in the ministry of telling the Good News to the World.

Rector

Amen. Let us hear again the Good News of salvation.

The Lessons

The people sit. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading (Lesson) from _____.

A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to _____.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Bishop

N.; people of _____: in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People We will, with God's help.

Bishop

The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop may bless the water.

We pray you, O God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that all who in baptism are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Rector

Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we renounce Satan and all his works, and promise to serve God faithfully in God's holy Catholic Church.

Water is poured into the font and the Bishop or the Rector leads the renewal of baptismal vows.

Bishop or Rector

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to
Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Bishop or Rector

Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop or Rector

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop or Rector

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Bishop or Rector

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop or Rector

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop or Rector

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop or Rector

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop or Rector

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop or Rector

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A baptismal hymn, psalm or other song may be sung. The congregation may be sprinkled with the water.

The Prayers

A symbol of prayer (e.g., a book of prayers, the list of intercessions, an icon) is brought forward by Intercessor(s) from the congregation.

N., with this _____ we offer our prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings to God.

Rector Amen. In the Spirit of God, who searches the heart and knows our deepest needs, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who yearn for Christ's healing.

Then follow Prayers written for the occasion; or the Litany for the Mission of the Church (Book of Occasional Services 2003, p 246); or the Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church (BCP p. 578).

The Litany for Ordinations is not appropriate for this occasion.

A stole and/or flask of oil for healing may be presented by parishioners such as Pastoral Visitors, Eucharistic Visitors, or Prayer Circle Members.

N., with prayer, companionship and laying-on of hands we bring the reconciling presence of Christ to those who seek healing. Join us in this ministry by calling us to repentance, and assuring us of God's forgiveness and love.

Rector Amen. Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy,
loves you eternally, and reconciles you to one another.

All stand. The new Rector says to the people

Rector The Peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Bishop says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and the wine.
Addressing the Rector, they say*

N., when we share the bread and the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Join us at God's table to offer and bless our gifts of bread and wine.

Rector Amen. Together, let us keep the feast.

The deacon brings the elements to the table, and the Offertory continues as a hymn or anthem is sung. When the alms are brought forward, gifts for ministry may also be brought to the altar, and may be received with the following or similar words

Bishop

We offer thanksgiving to God for the ministries represented by these symbols, and ask God's grace to live ever more fully into the commitments we have made in Baptism.

People Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Preface of Baptism is suggested.

Postcommunion Prayer

Suggested text (Enriching our Worship 1, page 70)

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Bishop

We have celebrated this new pastoral relationship in the great prayer of the Church. N.,
I commend to your love and care the people of _____. My brothers and sisters in Christ,
I commend to your love and care your new Rector, colleague and friend, N.

*The bishop, or the priest, may bless the assembly.
Suggested text (Enriching Our Worship 1; source, Celtic)*

God's blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Dismissal