

# Holy Matrimony

## Preface

Standing together, the Groom on the right of the Bride, the Priest addresses those who have gathered:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and His angels, and all the Saints, in the face of His Church, to join together this man and this woman in holy Matrimony, which was first instituted by God in Creation and then adorned and beautified by Christ with His presence and first miracle at Cana, and which signifies the mystical union between Christ and His Church: that they may be one body, yet two souls, in the faith and law of God, and together may attain eternal life.

## Vows

The Priest asks the Groom:

*N*, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife; Will you love, honor, hold and cherish her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her, so long as you both shall live?

The Groom answers:

I will.

The Priest asks the Bride:

*N*, will you have this man to be your wedded husband; Will you love, honor, comfort and cherish him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him, so long as you both shall live?

The Bride answers:

I will.

The Priest asks:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

The Priest receives the Bride from her father or friend and places her right hand in the Groom's right hand, who then repeats after the Priest:

I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, as ordained by the Holy Church, and thereto I plight you my troth.

They loose their hands and the Bride takes the Groom's right hand in her right hand, likewise repeating after the Priest:

I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, as ordained by the Holy Church, and thereto I plight you my troth.

### **Blessing of the Rings**

They again loose their hands and the Groom gives the rings to the Priest, who blesses them:

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O Creator and preserver of mankind, giver of spiritual grace, bestower of eternal salvation: Send Your **X** blessing upon these rings, that they who wear them will be armed with the strength of heavenly defense and these rings will be profitable to their eternal salvation. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**X** Bless these rings, O Lord, which we hallow in Your Holy Name: that they who wear them will be steadfast in Your peace and abide in Your will; that they will live, increase, and grow old in Your love; and that the length of their days will be multiplied. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Priest sprinkles Holy Water over the rings and gives the Bride's ring to the Groom, who receives it in his right hand and, holding the Bride's right hand in his left hand, repeats after the Priest:

With this ring I thee wed, and with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow.

The Groom places the Bride's ring on the thumb of her left hand, saying:

In the Name of the Father [on the first finger], and of the Son [on the second finger], and of the Holy Spirit [on the third finger]. *Amen.*

They loose their hands and the Priest gives the Groom's ring to the Bride, who receives it in her right hand and, holding the Groom's right hand in her left hand, repeats after the Priest:

With this ring I thee wed, and with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow.

The Bride places the Groom's ring on the thumb of his left hand, saying:

In the Name of the Father [on the first finger], and of the Son [on the second finger], and of the Holy Spirit [on the third finger]. *Amen.*

They bow their heads and the Priest blesses them:

**X** Blessed be you of the Lord, Who made the world out of nothing. *Amen.*

Your God has sent forth strength for you: Strengthen, O God, that which You have created in us. For the sake of Your Temple at Jerusalem, kings shall bring presents to You. Scatter the company of spearmen among the wild beasts until they submit themselves with pieces of silver.

**Gloria Patri**

Priest and People:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Priest and People:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Save Your servant and Your handmaiden:

*O God, Who put their trust in You.*

O Lord, send them help from Your holy place:

*And defend them out of Zion.*

Be to them, O Lord, a tower of strength:

*From the face of their enemy.*

Lord, hear my prayer:  
*And let my cry come unto You.*

### **Blessings**

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Any or all of the following blessings may be said:

May the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the all-holy, consubstantial and life-creating Trinity, one Godhead, and one Kingdom, **X** bless you.

The Lord **X** bless you out of Zion: that you may behold Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life, and see your children's children and peace upon Israel.

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob: **X** Bless this couple and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that, whatever they shall profitably learn, they may indeed fulfill the same.

**X** Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Abraham and Sarah. **X** Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Isaac and Rebecca. **X** Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Joachim and Anna. **X** Bless them, O Lord our God, as You blessed Zacharias and Elizabeth.

Look down from Heaven, O Lord, and **X** bless this congregation; and, as You sent Your holy Angel Raphael to Tobias and to Sarah, the daughter of

Raguel, so send, O Lord, Your **X** blessing upon this couple; that they, obeying Your will and always being in safety under Your protection, may live, increase, and grow old in Your love; and may be worthy and peacemakers, and that the length of their days may be multiplied.

Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You preserved Noah in the ark. Preserve them, O Lord our God, as You preserved the three Holy children from the fire. Let that gladness come upon them which the blessed Helena had when she found the precious Cross.

Favorably regard this Your servant and this Your handmaiden, O Lord: that in Your Name they may receive a heavenly **X** benediction, see the children of their sons and daughters to the third and fourth generations in safety, ever remain steadfast in Your will, and at length attain to the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Almighty and merciful God, Who by His power created our first parents, Adam and Eve, and by His own consecration knit them together: Himself sanctify and **X** bless your souls and bodies, and join you together in the union and love of true affection.

Remember them, O Lord our God, as You remembered the Forty Holy Martyrs, sending down upon them crowns from heaven. Remember them, O Lord our God, and the parents who have nurtured them, for the prayers of the parents make firm the foundations of houses.

Grant them fair children and concord of soul and body, O Lord our God, and let them behold their children's children around their table like a newly-planted olive

orchard, that, obtaining favor in Your sight, they may shine like the stars of heaven, in You.

May He Who by His presence at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee declared marriage to be an honorable estate, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

The Priest concludes the blessings with:

God Almighty **X** bless you with all heavenly benediction and make you worthy in His sight, pour upon you the riches of His grace, and instruct you in the Word of Truth: that you may be enabled to please Him alike in body and soul. Through Jesus Christ Your Son, restorer of mankind, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life: Send Your blessing upon these Your servants, this man and this woman, whom we **X** bless in Your Name; that they, living faithfully together, may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant made between them and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to Your laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Priest may add either or both of the following prayers:

O Almighty God, Creator of mankind, Who only are the well-spring of life: Bestow upon these Your servants, if it be Your will, the gift and heritage of

children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in Your faith and fear, to the honor and glory of Your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, Who has so consecrated Holy Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity between Christ and His Church: Look mercifully upon these Your servants; that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness; that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Priest joins their right hands together and says:  
Those whom God has joined together let no man put asunder.

The Priest then addresses the company:  
*N* and *N* have entered into holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their troth to each other, and have declared the same by their exchange of rings and by their joining hands: I pronounce that they are Man and Wife; In the Name of the Father, and of the **X** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Bride and Groom are brought into the Presbytery (between the Choir and the Altar) on the south side of the Church, the Bride seated on the Groom's right, between him and the Altar, and the Mass begins.

## Collects

As on Trinity Sunday, then:

Hear us, O Almighty and merciful God: that what we minister according to our office may be abundantly fulfilled with Your blessing. Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

## Epistle

I Cor 6:15-20

*Brothers and sisters*, don't you know that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Don't you know that he who is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, He says, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. What? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy spirit, Who is in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: Therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

## Gospel

Mt 19:3-6

*At that time*, the Pharisees came to *Jesus*, tempting Him, by asking Him, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them, "Haven't you read that He Who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife: and the two shall be one flesh'? So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

## Secret

Immediately before the Sursum Corda:  
Of Your goodness and mercy, O Lord: Be present with our supplications and accept this oblation which we offer to You on behalf of Your servants whom You have seen fit to bring together in Holy Matrimony. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Sacramental Blessing

After the Sanctus, the Bride and Groom kneel in prayer at the step of the Altar. Before *The Peace of the Lord ...* (after the Fraction), the Priest blesses them:

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Look favorably on our supplications, O Lord, and of Your goodness assist the ordinances whereby You have appointed that mankind should be increased: that they who are joined together by Your allowance may be preserved by Your succor. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O God, Who by Your mighty power made all things out of nothing; Who also, after setting other things in order, created for man, made after the image of God, the inseparable help of the woman, that out of man's flesh woman should take her beginning, teaching that what You have been pleased to make one, should not be

put asunder; O God, Who has the state of matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified the sacramental union and marriage of Christ and the Church; O God, by Whom woman is joined to man and the union, instituted in the beginning is gifted with that **X** blessing which alone has not been taken away through the penalty of original sin or the judgment of the deluge: Look graciously, we beseech You, on this Your handmaid now to be joined in wedlock, who earnestly desires to be guarded by Your protection; Let the yoke of love and peace be upon her; Let her be faithful and chaste; Let her wed in Christ, and ever remain a follower of holy matrons; Let her be loving to her husband as Rachel, wise as Rebecca, long-lived and faithful as Sara; Let not the father of lies get advantage over her through her doings; Let her abide in the bond of faith and precept, being wedded to one man; Let her flee all unlawful conversation and fortify her weakness with the strength of discipline; Let her be grave and bashful, severe and modest, well-instructed in heavenly discipline; Let her be fruitful in child-bearing, well reported of, and innocent, and attain to a desired old age, seeing her children's children unto the third and fourth generation, and finally attaining unto the rest of the blessed and the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Priest turns to the Altar and continues as usual. The Bride and Groom rise and, after the mingling, the Groom receives the Peace from the Priest and gives it to the Bride, kissing her.

## **Post-Communion**

Before the Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We beseech You, O Almighty God, further the ordinance of Your Providence with compassion and love, and keep in peace unto old age those whom You join together in lawful union. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Blessing**

The Priest blesses the Bride and Groom, kneeling:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit:  
Bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may so live together in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

## **Blessing of Bread and Wine**

After Mass, the Priest blesses bread and wine for the Bride and Groom:

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

**X** Bless this bread, O Lord, and this wine, and this vessel, as You did the five loaves in the wilderness, and the six waterpots in Cana: that all they who taste of them may be discreet, sober and undefiled, O Savior of the World, Who lives and reigns with Your Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

# Holy Orders

## Ordination to the Sub-Diaconate

At the conclusion of Morning Prayer, the Candidate is brought before the Bishop and the Candidate's letter from his spiritual father is read.

The Bishop makes the sign of the Cross three times over the Candidate, saying:  
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3X)

Deacon:  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Bishop:  
Lord, our God, Who through the one and same Holy Spirit distribute gifts of grace to each one whom You have chosen; Who have given to the Church different orders; and have established different degrees of ministry therein for the service of Your holy, pure Mysteries; and Who through Your ineffable foreknowledge have ordained this Your servant, *N*, worthy to serve in Your holy Church: Preserve him, Lord, uncondemned in all things; Grant that he may love the beauty of Your house, standing before the doors of Your holy temple, and lighting the lamps of the dwelling place of Your glory; Plant him in Your holy Church like a fruitful olive tree bringing forth the fruits of righteousness. Make him Your perfect servant at the time of Your Second Coming, that he may receive the reward of those who are pleasing in Your sight; For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen*.

The newly-ordained Subdeacon stands before the Bishop, holding a pitcher of water in his right hand, and a bowl in his left, with a towel placed over his left arm. The Bishop washes his hands, and then splashes water in the face of the Subdeacon.

Meanwhile, the Subdeacon intones:  
All who are faithful. (3X)

The newly-ordained Subdeacon is then led before the icon of the Lord Jesus Christ to prayerfully await the moment of ordination to the Diaconate.

### **Ordination to the Diaconate**

After the homily, two Deacons bring the Subdeacon before the Bishop.

1<sup>st</sup> Deacon:  
Command

2<sup>nd</sup> Deacon:  
All command

1<sup>st</sup> Deacon:  
Command, Holy Master, the one who presents himself before you.

Bishop:  
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3X)

The Subdeacon addresses the Bishop, then the Bishop counsels the Subdeacon. Afterwards, the Subdeacon, led by the Deacons, circles the Altar three times while the Clergy sing:  
Hear us, you martyred Saints who have fought the good fight and received crowns: Entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Glory to you, Christ our God, the Apostles' boast and pride, the Martyrs' fervent joy whose preaching is the consubstantial Trinity.

O Isaiah dance with joy, for the Virgin is indeed with child and brought forth a Son, Emmanuel, Who came both as God and man, Day-at-the-Dawn is His Name and, by magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

The two Deacons bring the Candidate to the Bishop at the front of the Altar. The Subdeacon kneels before the Altar, placing his hands on the Altar and his head upon his hands. The Bishop makes the sign of the Cross three times over his head.

Deacon:  
Let us be attentive!

The Bishop places his hand on the head of the Subdeacon while he prays:  
The divine grace, which always heals that which is infirm and completes that which is lacking, ordains the most devout Subdeacon *N* to the office of Deacon. Let us, therefore, pray for him: that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him.

Clergy:  
Lord have mercy. (3X)

Deacon:  
Let us pray to the Lord.

Bishop:  
Lord our God, in Your providence You send your Holy Spirit upon those who are ordained by Your unsearchable power to become servants to minister Your Pure Mysteries: Look upon this man whom You

have consented to be ordained by me to the service of the Diaconate, Lord, and preserve him in all humility; that he may hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience; Grant to him the grace which You gave to Stephen, Your first martyr, whom You called first to the ministry of Your Diaconate; Make him worthy to please You as he serves You in the office which You, in Your goodness, bestowed upon him; For those who minister well prepare themselves for good reward; and proclaim him Your perfect servant; For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

Deacon, in a low voice:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.* [and after each of the following Petitions]

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace in the whole world, for the unity of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop, *N*, and our Bishop, *N*, for his priesthood, sustenance, sojourn, peace, health, salvation, and for the works of his hands, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servant of God, *N*, who has now been ordained a Deacon, and for his salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That God, Who loves mankind, will grant to him a pure and blameless diaconate, let us pray to the Lord.

For this parish and this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*To You, O Lord.*

Bishop:

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

While the Deacon intones the Petitions, the Bishop prays over the new Deacon with his hand still on the new Deacon's head: O God our Savior, by your immortal voice You established the office of the diaconate through Your Apostles and showed forth the First Martyr, Stephen, whom You elected first to fulfill the work of a Deacon. It is written in Your holy Gospel, "whoever would be first among you, let him be your servant." Lord of all, fill this, Your servant, whom you have consented to enter the ministry of a Deacon, with the totality of faith, love, power, and sanctification by the descent of Your Holy and Life-giving Spirit. For not through the

laying on of my hands, but by the divine visitation of your rich mercies, grace is bestowed upon your worthy ones; that he, liberated from every sin, may stand blameless by You in the awesome Day of Judgment and receive the true reward of Your promise.

For You are our God, and to You we ascribe glory, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

All stand as the Bishop proclaims the new Deacon to be worthy:

*Axios!*

*Axios!*

The Bishop holds up the Deacon's vestments one at a time, each time proclaiming as he vests the new Deacon:

*Axios!*

*Axios!*

### **Ordination to the Priesthood**

At the completion of the Offertory Hymn, two Priests bring the Deacon before the Bishop.

1<sup>st</sup> Priest:

Command.

2<sup>nd</sup> Priest:

All Command.

1<sup>st</sup> Priest:

Command, holy Master, the one who is now being presented to you.

Bishop:  
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* (3X)

The Deacon addresses the Bishop, then the Bishop counsels the Deacon. Afterwards, the Deacon, led by the Priests, circles the Altar three times while the Clergy sing:

Hear us, you martyred Saints who have fought the good fight and received crowns: Entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Glory to you, Christ our God, the Apostles' boast and pride, the Martyrs' fervent joy whose preaching is the consubstantial Trinity.

O Isaiah dance with joy, for the Virgin is indeed with child and brought forth a Son, Emmanuel, Who came both as God and man, Day-at-the-Dawn is His Name and, by magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

The two Priests bring the Candidate to the Bishop at the front of the Altar. The Deacon kneels before the Altar, placing his hands on the Altar and his head upon his hands. The Bishop makes the sign of the Cross three times over his head.

Deacon:  
Let us be attentive!

The Bishop places his hand on the head of the Deacon while he prays:  
The divine grace, which always heals that which is infirm and completes that which is lacking, ordains the most devout Deacon *N* to the office of Priest. Let us, therefore, pray for him: that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him.

*Lord have mercy. (3X)*

Deacon:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Bishop:

O God without beginning or end, Who are before every created thing, and Who honors with the title of Presbyter those whom You deem worthy to serve the word of Your truth in the divine ministry of this order: You, the same sovereign Master, preserve in purity of life and in unswerving faith this man whom You have been pleased to ordain through me by the laying on of hands, graciously imparting to him the great grace of Your Holy Spirit, making him wholly Your servant, well-pleasing to You in all things, and worthily exercising this great honor of the Priesthood which You conferred upon him by the power of Your wisdom.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

Senior Priest, in a low voice:

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.* [and after each of the following Petitions]

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For peace in the whole world, for the unity of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop, *N*, and our Bishop, *N*, for his priesthood, sustenance, sojourn, peace, health, salvation, and for the works of his hands, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servant of God *N*, who has now been ordained a presbyter, and for his salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That God, Who loves mankind will grant to him a pure and blameless priesthood, let us pray to the Lord.

For this parish and this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

*To You, O Lord.*

Bishop:

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

While the Senior Priest intones the Petitions, the Bishop prays over the new Presbyter with his hand still on the new Presbyter's head:

O God, great in might and inscrutable in wisdom, marvelous in counsel above the sons of men: You the same Lord, fill with the gift of Your Holy Spirit this man whom it has pleased You to advance to the degree of Priest; that he may become worthy to stand in innocence before Your altar, to proclaim the Gospel of Your Kingdom, to minister the word of Your truth, to offer to You spiritual gifts and sacrifices; to renew Your people through the font of regeneration; that, when he shall go to meet You, at the second coming of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, he may receive the reward of good stewardship in the order given to him, through the plenitude of Your goodness.

For blessed and glorified is Your all-holy and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now, and ever and unto ages of ages. *Amen.*

All stand as the Bishop proclaims the new Priest to be worthy:

*Axios!*

*Axios!*

The Bishop holds up the Priest's vestments one at a time, each time proclaiming as he vests the new Priest:

*Axios!*

*Axios!*

After the Prayer of Consecration is concluded, the Bishop places the Body of Christ into the new Priest's hands with the following admonition:

Receive this Divine Trust and guard it until the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, at which time He will demand It from you.

## Consecration to the Episcopacy

Before the reading of the Gospel Lesson, the Bishop-Elect is presented:

Most Reverend Father, the Church of *N* asks you to ordain this Priest, *N*, for service as a Bishop.

Principal Consecrator:

Have you the Testimonials of the election?

Priest:

We have.

Principal Consecrator:

Let it be read.

All sit while the document is read. The Testimonials having been read, all say:

Thanks be to God.

Principal Consecrator:

The ancient rule of the holy Fathers decrees that a Bishop-Elect is to be questioned before the people on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duties faithfully.

My brother, are you resolved by the grace of the Holy Spirit to discharge to the end of your life the office the Apostles entrusted to us, which we now pass on to you by the laying on of hands?

Bishop-Elect:

I am.

Principal Consecrator:

Are you resolved to be faithful and constant in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ?

Bishop-Elect:  
I am.

Principal Consecrator:  
Are you resolved to maintain the deposit of Faith,  
entire and incorrupt, as handed down by the Apostles  
and professed by the Church everywhere and at all  
time?

Bishop-Elect:  
I am.

Principal Consecrator:  
Are you resolved to build up the Church as the Body  
of Christ and to remain united to it within the Order of  
Bishops under the authority of the Patriarch?

Bishop-Elect:  
I am.

Principal Consecrator: Are you resolved to be faithful  
in your obedience to the Patriarch?

Bishop-Elect:  
I am.

Principal Consecrator:  
Are you resolved as a devoted father to sustain the  
people of God and to guide them in the way of salvation  
in cooperation with the Priests and Deacons who share  
your ministry?

Bishop-Elect:  
I am.

Principal Consecrator:

Are you resolved to show kindness and compassion in the Name of the Lord to the poor and to strangers and to all who are in need?

Bishop-Elect

I am.

Principal Consecrator:

Are you resolved as a good shepherd to seek out the sheep who stray and to gather them into the fold of the Lord?

Bishop-Elect:

I am.

Principal Consecrator:

Are you resolved to pray for the people of God without ceasing, and to carry out the duties of one who has the fullness of the priesthood so as to afford no grounds for reproach?

Bishop-Elect:

I am, with the help of God.

Principal Consecrator:

May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.

Bishop:

Let us pray that Almighty God in His goodness will pour out His grace upon this man whom He has chosen to provide for the needs of the Church.

Deacon:

Let us kneel.

The Bishops prostrate themselves during the Litany of the Saints, which the Principal Consecrator concludes:

Principal Consecrator:

Lord, be moved by our prayers. Anoint your servant with the fullness of priestly grace, and bless him with spiritual power in all its richness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

Deacon:

Let us stand.

The Bishop-Elect kneels before the Principal Consecrator, who lays his hands upon the head of the Bishop-Elect, in silence. After him, all other Bishops present do the same. The Principal Consecrator then places the open Book of the Gospels upon the head of the Bishop-Elect. Two Deacons, standing at either side of the Bishop-Elect, hold the Book of the Gospels above his head until the Prayer of Consecration is completed.

Principal Consecrator:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies and God of all consolation: You dwell in Heaven, yet look with compassion on all that is humble; You know all things before they come to be; By Your gracious Word You have established the plan of Your Church; From the beginning, You chose the descendants of Abraham to be Your holy nation; You established rulers and priests, and did not leave Your Sanctuary without ministers to serve You; From the creation of the world, You have been pleased to be glorified by those whom You have chosen:

All consecrating Bishops, with hands joined:

So now pour out upon this chosen one that power which is from You, the governing Spirit Whom You gave to Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Spirit given by Him to the holy Apostles, Who founded the Church in every place to be Your Temple for the unceasing glory and praise of Your Name.

Principal Consecrator:

Father, you know all hearts. You have chosen Your servant for the office of Bishop. May he be a shepherd to Your holy flock, a high priest blameless in Your sight, ministering to You night and day; May he always gain the blessing of Your favor and offer the gifts of Your holy Church. Through the Spirit Who gives the grace of high priesthood, grant him the power to forgive sins as You have commanded, to assign ministries as You have decreed, and to loose every bond by the authority which You gave to Your Apostles. May he be pleasing to You by his gentleness and purity of heart, presenting a fragrant offering to You, through Jesus Christ Your Son, through Whom glory and power and honor are Yours with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Principal Consecrator:

God has brought you to share the high priesthood of Christ. May He pour out on you the oil of mystical anointing and enrich you with spiritual blessing.

Principal Consecrator as he presents the new Bishop with the Book of the Gospels:

Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with unflinching patience and sound teaching.

Principal Consecrator as he invests the new Bishop with Ring, Miter, and Pastoral Staff:

Take this ring, the seal of your fidelity. With faith and love protect the Bride of God, his holy Church.

Principal Consecrator after placing the miter on the new Bishop's head in silence:

Take this staff as a sign of your pastoral office: Keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has appointed you to shepherd the Church of God.

If the new bishop is in his own church, the Principal Consecrator invites him to occupy the chair. If the new Bishop is not in his own church, he is invited by the Principal Consecrator to take the first place among the concelebrating Bishops. The new Bishop then sets aside his staff and receives the kiss of peace from the Principal Consecrator and all the other Bishops.

In the Prayer of Consecration, after the words, *on behalf of Your Holy Catholic Church*, the following is inserted:

and the one You have chosen for the Order of Bishops. Protect the gifts You have given him, and let him yield a harvest worthy of You.

If the new Bishop is the celebrant, he inserts the following Prayers before the final Blessing:

Lord God, You care for Your people with kindness, You rule them with love. Give Your Spirit of wisdom to the Bishops You have made teachers and pastors. By advancing in holiness, may the flock become the eternal joy of the Shepherds. *Amen*.

Lord God, by Your power You allot us the number of our days and the measure of our years. Look favorably upon the service we perform for You, and give true, lasting peace in our time. *Amen*.

Lord God, now that You have raised me to the Order of Bishops, may I please You in the performance of my Office. Unite the hearts of People and Bishop, so that the shepherd may not be without the support of his flock, or the flock without the loving concern of its shepherd. *Amen.*

May Almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

If the Principal Consecrator is the celebrant, he inserts the following Prayers before the final Blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. He chose to make you a bishop for His people: May you know happiness in this present life and share in unending joy. *Amen.*

The Lord has gathered His people and clergy in unity: By His care and your stewardship may they be governed happily for many years. *Amen.*

May they be obedient to God's law, free from hardships, rich in every blessing, and loyally assist you in your ministry. May they be blessed with peace and calm in this life and come to fellowship of the citizens of heaven. *Amen.*

## Consecration of Holy Oils

### Oil of the Infirm

Before the *Pater noster*, the Bishop makes the sign of the Cross over the oil three times and breathes on it three times, saying: I exorcise you, most unclean spirit; and put you to flight with all your assaults, Satan, and ever illusion of wicked enemies, by the majesty of God the Father, Almighty, Who by His marvelous power created the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them; that, together with all your poisonous lies, you may depart far from this creature of oil at the coming benediction. In the Name of the **X** Father, and of the **X** Son and of the Holy **X** Spirit, let this oil be a spiritual unction and perfect medicine to all who shall be anointed with it, confirming in the Lord the temple of man's estate, by the cooperation of the grace and virtue of the Holy Spirit in it; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, to Whom, with the Father, be all praise and honor for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Who for the need of the sick visited the world to show forth Your healing power, and by Your presence caused every pain and sickness to flee away: Regard these Your servants, that what this day in the commemoration of the Holy Supper is to be done by our ministry, may be perfected by Your power; and do not let a sinner's blessing displease You, since You are the purifier and pardoner of all Your priests. O Lord, Who, according to the word of Elisha, healed Naaman the Syrian after he had washed in the Jordan seven times, so that his flesh grew again like the flesh of a

little child, and he was cleansed of leprosy: Heal and cleanse all who are anointed with this oil from all leprosy, both spiritual and bodily. Grant also, O Lord: that those who are touched by this oil may remain holy and undefiled vessels, and may ever abound with the sevenfold grace of the Holy Spirit, Who lives and reigns with You and Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

We beseech You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God: Send forth Your Holy Spirit from on high upon this fatness of the olive, which You have been pleased to bring out of the green tree, and through the present influence of the Holy Spirit, let it be enriched with heavenly benediction, to the refreshment of bodies, and salvation of souls; We pray You O Lord, Who are the true Savior and Physician, Who also has said that those who are not whole do not need a physician, but those who are sick; Pour forth upon this oil the healing power of Your benediction for us who are in sickness and in need of Your Divine remedies, that it may be to all who touch it, and are anointed with it, the salvation of their souls, the protection of their bodies, the stilling of their passions, and the restoration of saving health. Let this oil, O Father Almighty, be sanctified, as You said by the Apostle, "Is any sick among you? Let him be anointed with holy oil in the Name of the Lord, and He shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven; to the end that we, O Lord, trusting in this Your sanction, may all receive the same for a holy unction and spiritual cure, to the banishing of our infirmities, and the obtaining of forgiveness of all our sins. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

## Oil of Catechumens

Before the Fraction, the Bishop makes the sign of the Cross over the oil three times and breathes on it three times, saying:  
I exorcise you, creature of oil, in the Name of God the Father **X** Almighty, by this invocation of Jesus **X** Christ, and by the power of the Holy **X** Spirit: that, by this adjuration of the Trinity most high and one Godhead, all the wicked power and malice of the Devil, and all fierce assaults and hurtful illusions of enemies, may be turned back and put to flight, and utterly depart from your substance, which was created for man's use; that, in the Name of the Lord, you may become a holy oil, a saving unction, purified also by holy mysteries, for the sanctification of flesh and of spirit, and for the remission of sins to all who shall be anointed with you, to the end that they may in Baptism obtain the grace of the Holy Spirit; that, as the breasts and shoulders of all receive the outward sign of Confirmation, so through you their minds and souls may be inwardly sanctified with a heavenly benediction, in the Name of the **X** Father, and of the **X** Son, and of the Holy **X** Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O Lord God, Father Almighty, Whose Only-Begotten, that He might show Himself to be Lord, worked numberless miracles on the Jews, healed the paralytic, cleansed the lepers, cast out devils, raised the dead, and at the last was crucified that He might crucify evil spirits and quicken the dead: Sanctify this oil, and let all who shall be anointed with it be enriched with the grace of eternal sanctification, and be made fruitful with all the fatness of the earth and the dew of Heaven. Grant also, Lord God: that our benediction may abide sure

and mighty in His Name, Whom all creation serves; Whom Cherubim and Seraphim, and all the orders of Heaven, unite in praising, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts," Who lives and reigns in the Holy Trinity, One God, world without end. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

O God, Who by the power of Your Holy Spirit strengthens the very beginnings of tender minds, we pray You to **X** bless and sanctify this oil; Grant to those who, by the anointing of this creature shall come to the laver of blessed regeneration, cleansing of mind and body; that, if any spirits of the enemy remain and cleave to them, at the touch of this hallowed oil, they may depart. Let no place be left for spiritual wickedness; No advantage be given to apostate powers; No occasion to lie in wait be permitted for evil visitants; but to Your servants who come near, and by the operation of Your Holy Spirit, let this be an unction for their cleansing, favorable and profitable for the salvation of those who shall also obtain the birth of heavenly regeneration in the Sacrament of Baptism. Through Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

### **Oil of Chrism**

O Redeemer, hear, we pray You;  
We who hold fast by You.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

Hear, Judge of the departed,  
Only hope of all mankind:  
Hear their cry who plead before You,  
The gift of peace the faithful find.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

May the Father here be present,  
Who, albeit invisibly,  
Above Your fellows with the unction  
Of gladness has anointed You.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

May the Holy Spirit be present,  
Who, when ceased the deluge rain,  
To the Ark, the Church's figure,  
Brought the olive branch again.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

This, the Tree of Light, the parent  
Did present for consecration:  
This our lowly band adoring,  
Brings to Him, the world's salvation.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

Duly vested at the Altar,  
Suppliant the Bishop stands;  
Rightly ordering the Chrism  
With his consecrating hands.  
*O Redeemer, ...*  
Vouchsafe this Oil to hollow,  
King of the eternal land;  
Sign of living power to vanquish  
Satan and his demon band.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

Sin, from souls by Holy Water  
Hallowed, flees apace;  
Brows, by Holy Oil anointed,  
Gifts adorn of special grace.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

In the Virgin's womb indwelling,  
Son to her heart most dear;  
Light bestow, prevent the darkness  
Of all who are anointed.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

Let this be a feast-day to us  
Through the ages evermore;  
With fitting praises consecrated,  
Nor wax old till time be o'er.  
*O Redeemer, ...*

The Bishop mixes the Oil of Chrism with balsam, previously prepared and blessed, saying:  
Let this mixture of balsam and oil be to all anointed with it a propitiation and saving defense for ever and ever. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Bishop turns to the east, makes the sign of the Cross over the oil three times, breathes on it three times, and begins *Veni Creator Spiritus*, genuflecting. The hymn ended, he says:  
I exorcise you, creature of oil, by the power of God Almighty, Who made heaven, earth, sea, and all that is in them. Let all power of the enemy, all the host of the Devil, and all assailants, together with every illusion of Satan, be rooted out and put to flight from you: that you may become, to all who shall be anointed with you, the adopter of children by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Name of the Father **X** Almighty, and in the love of His Son **X** Jesus Christ our Lord, Who live live and reign in the Unity of the Holy **X** Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray, dearly beloved brethren, to the Lord, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, Who, in the marvelous power of His Only-Begotten Son, succored the world which was miserably perishing, with the intent that upon us, unworthy and without merit, who should call upon His Holy Name, He might vouchsafe to bestow the aid of His heavenly compassion, and to purify our hearts by the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit; that we, being cleansed from the stain of our sins, may be made fitting to prepare the saving Christ: that the grace of Almighty God may aid us in this office; that what is to be obediently performed by us may be perfected by His own most holy benediction, and the Divine cooperation of the Holy Spirit; and that this oil, sanctified and renewed by God, may by the life-giving droppings of fragrant balsam be made a holy X Chrism and assurance of eternal safety to all who shall be anointed with it for the everlasting salvation of souls; our Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten of The Same, and the Holy Spirit from The Same proceeding, to it agreeing and assisting, Who in the Holy Trinity lives and reigns, One True God, world without end. *Amen.*

O Lord God of Hosts, lively hope of mankind, salvation and life of all who live godly, Who of Your righteousness and for the praise of Your glory has ordained that the estate of Catholic Orders and royal dignities should be consecrated with the oil of gladness and the Chrism of salvation: We bow before You, entreating You, most merciful, to enlighten our senses and consciences with Your pleasant

brightness, and further us in these holy ceremonies with the fulness of heavenly blessings, for the preparation of the healing medicines of our souls. For the consecration of this health-giving unction, You, O Lord, have provided for the use of man all things which spring out of the earth, but more especially have You appointed the fruit of the olive for the salvation of men under both dispensations; seeing that You have promised by Your Prophet that, upon unction with holy oil, we shall be cleansed from all sin, and as the Most High Priest forever has consecrated the rank and dignity of the Church's Orders with the oil of Chrism. We beseech You, O Lord, let Your invisible Presence be with us, and send forth Your Holy Spirit from on high upon us, who confess You in One Nature and substance of Three Persons, to make by our office and ministry a fragrant balsam of living odors, and pour it in blessing upon the oil of Consecration and, by the soothing commingling of both, make perfect a saving Chrism for the salvation of them that believe. Sanctify, we beseech You, O Lord God, this oil and balsam with the benediction of Your Godhead and, being made a Chrism of salvation, let it cause Your children renewed to You in the hope of adoption to rise to the newness of heavenly regeneration. Let this Chrism, O Lord, be sanctified in the presence of Your Godhead, be redolent of the sweet scent of angelic odors, and be a spiritual medicine and restoration of soul and body, and, by the abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit become the salvation of all; and let all who shall be worthily anointed with this holy oil be made partakers of eternal gladness through the same Holy Spirit, Who lives and reigns with You and Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Almighty and unsearchable God and Father, Who, when You sent to earth Your Only-Begotten Son, Who was co-eternally with You before the world, also bestowed upon the world the fullness of grace; Whom You also graciously anoint with holy oil, royal oil, the oil of Chrism, above His fellows, that He might have none co-equal with Him among all the prophets, kings and priests, and might alone appear more perfect in the flesh; and that it might be plainly shown that none shall ascend into the Kingdom of Heaven except he be sanctified by the putting on of Chrism: By that same Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom John baptized in the Jordan for our salvation, pour upon this Chrism Your consecrating grace; and shed forth upon all the dew of the most Holy Spirit Himself' Defend them from the malice and power of the perpetual enemy, and from the prison of hell and give them part in the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven, of His bounteous gift Who sits at Your Right Hand, God and Lord, and with You and the Holy Spirit co-equally lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is fitting and right to give Him thanks and praise.*

It is very fitting, right, just, and our duty to always and everywhere give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God; Who, in the beginning, among other gifts of Your goodness and loving-kindness, commanded the earth to bring forth trees

yielding fruit, among which sprang up olives this rich liquid, the fruit of which should minister to the holy Chrism. For David also, foreknowing in the spirit of prophecy the Sacrament of Your grace, made mention also of oil to make us of a cheerful countenance; and when of old the sins of the world were washed out by the outpouring of a deluge, the dove, manifesting the similitude of the gift to come, by an olive branch brought tidings of the restoration of peace to the earth. Which has in the past been declared by manifest tokens, since, when the waters of Baptism have washed away the guilt of all sin, this Anointing of Oil makes our countenances cheerful and calm. Then, too, You gave commandment to Moses, Your servant, that, after he had washed Aaron, his brother, with water, he should, by pouring on him this oil, ordain him priest. To this, a higher honor was given when Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord required John to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan. In that You sent down from above the Holy Spirit, in the likeness of a dove, upon Your Only-Begotten, in Whom, by witness of the voice which followed, You declared Yourself well pleased. By this You showed most clearly what the Prophet David sang of, that He should be anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows. You, therefore, we entreat, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, by the same Your Son Jesus Christ: Vouchsafe to X bless the fatness of this creature with Your beneXdiction, and mingle with it the power of the Holy X Spirit, by the cooperation of the might of Your Anointed, from Whose Holy Name Chrism has received its title; with which You have anointed priests, kings, prophets, and martyrs, that they, being lifted up by these degrees, according to the Sacrament of Ordination, and anointed with the consecration of unction, might put on the robe of

incorruption. Therefore, O Lord, we entreat Your almighty power that the creature of this holy Chrism may be an anointing of salvation to those who have been born again of water and of the Holy Spirit, and that You will make them partakers of eternal life, and to have part and lot in heavenly glory. Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Chrism is covered by a veil on the Epistle side of the Altar until after the Agnus Dei. The Bishop proceeds with the Fraction and, after blessing the People, says:  
And His peace be ever with you.  
*And also with you.*

The Agnus Dei is begun and the Chrism is brought to the Bishop, who kisses it, saying:  
Hail, Holy Chrism.

The Chrism is then sent around and kissed as in the Pax while the Mass continues as usual.