

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Matthew 5: 12a

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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LITURGICAL MINISTRY

I. INTRODUCTION

“In the celebration of the Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people whom God has made his own, a royal priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the spotless Victim not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him, and so that they may learn to offer themselves. They should, moreover, endeavor to make this clear by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration.” (*GIRM*, 95)

“They are to shun any appearance of individualism or division, keeping before their eyes that they have only one Father in heaven and accordingly are all brothers and sisters of one another.” (*GIRM*, 95)

“Indeed, they form one body, whether by hearing the word of God, or by joining in the prayers and the singing, or above all by the common offering of Sacrifice and by a common partaking at the Lord’s table. This unity is beautifully apparent from the gestures and postures observed in common by the faithful.” (*GIRM*, 96)

“The faithful, moreover, should not refuse to serve the People of God gladly whenever they are asked to perform some particular ministry or function in the celebration.” (*GIRM*, 97)

II. RECRUITING AND TRAINING

LM 1. Pastors are to make every effort to recruit liturgical leadership from the community’s diversity of gender, age, ethnicity and cultures.

LM 2. Pastors are to make every effort to include persons with disabilities in the liturgical ministry of the community (see *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Bishops on Persons with Disabilities*, “The Person with Disabilities and the Ecclesial Community” and “Parish Level” pp. 4-7).

“They have the same duty as all members of the community to do the Lord’s work in the world, according to their God-given talents and capacities.” (*Pastoral Statement of U.S. Bishops on Persons with Disabilities*, p. 5)

LM 3. Pastors are to see to it that all liturgical leadership receives appropriate training for their ministry as well as ongoing formation.

The archdiocesan Liturgical Ministries Institute (LMI) provides foundational formation for all ministries and specific formation for particular ministries. All ministers, especially those who coordinate ministries in a parish, are urged to participate in this formation. Parishes are to offer to those who cannot directly participate in the Institute equivalent forms of formation.

III. VESTURE

LM 4. Liturgical leaders are to dress with modesty and dignity, in a way that respects the importance of the sacred liturgy and in a manner that does not call undue attention to the individual.

The alb is the vesture common to all liturgical ministers and may be worn according to local custom.

IV. CONDUCT AND DECORUM

LM 5. Liturgical leaders are to bear in mind the sacredness of the liturgical action they serve and through which they give glory to God. Their movements are to be carefully choreographed so that their service enhances the prayerful experience of the faithful. By their participation in singing, attentively listening to the readings and homily, and by their careful observance of gestures and postures of the Mass they model the participation of faithful.

V. READERS

Special Qualifications

LM 6. Readers are to be chosen from those who possess the following characteristics:

- **are fully initiated and active Catholics;**
- **have a special love and reverence for the Word of God;**
- **have a willingness to study and pray over the sacred scriptures;**
- **strive to live of the Word of God in their daily lives;**
- **possess a good speaking voice;**

- **are able to proclaim the readings before the assembly with clarity and authenticity;**
- **have the requisite time to devote to preparing for this ministry;**
- **are willing to undertake additional training and formation.**

Training for Readers

LM 7. The pastor is to see to it that special training is provided to Readers to prepare them for their ministry. Ongoing formation is to be provided at periodic intervals.

Term of Service

LM 8. Readers are to be appointed by the Pastor for a term of three (3) years. At the end of the term, readers are to be evaluated and may be reappointed for an additional term(s) at the discretion of the Pastor.

Pastors are encouraged to select a format for evaluation that best suits the pastoral circumstance of the community.

VI. EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Need for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

LM 9. If, on a regular basis, there are a large number of communicants at Mass and there are not sufficient ordinary ministers of Holy Communion (priests or deacons), the pastor may call upon lay faithful to assist him as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. In case of necessity, the priest may depute members of the faithful for a single occasion, who are fully initiated Catholics, active members of the parish, and of good reputation (see *CIC*, c. 230 §§2 and 3).

Special Qualifications

LM 10. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to be chosen from those who possess the following characteristics:

- **are fully initiated, active Catholics;**
- **have a deep love and reverence for the Holy Eucharist;**
- **model in their lives love of God and love of neighbor;**

- **possess a good reputation;**
- **are willing to undertake additional training and formation.**

Training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

LM 11. The pastor is to see to it that special training is provided to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to prepare them for ministry. Ongoing formation is also to be provided at periodic intervals.

Term of Service and Commissioning

LM 12. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to be called and commissioned by their pastor in the name of the Archbishop for a term of three (3) years. The names are to be forwarded to the Office of Liturgy who will provide the parish with a certificate to be given to the ministers. At the end of the term, ministers are to be evaluated, and may be reappointed for an additional term(s) at the discretion of the Pastor.

Pastors are encouraged to select a format for evaluation that best suits the pastoral circumstance of the community.

Additional Responsibilities

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound as an extension of the community's Eucharist and the community's love, prayer and concern, thereby including them in the worship of the whole community.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion deputed by the pastor may also bring Viaticum to those who are dying.

VII. OTHER MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

LM 13. Pastors are to make every effort to ensure that every liturgy has the required liturgical leadership. Lay faithful who have the appropriate gifts are to be called upon to serve as altar servers, sacristans, ushers, greeters and masters of ceremonies.

LM 14. Specialized training is to be provided to these leaders so that they can exercise their respective roles of service in the liturgy appropriately.

VIII. LAY PRESIDERS

LM 15. Certain lay ministers, who have already been commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, may also be commissioned by the pastor to preside at the Service of Distribution of Holy Communion outside Mass.

LM 16. Other lay ministers may also be designated to preside at services such as Liturgy of Hours, certain blessings, and Vigils and Committals for the Rite of Christian Burial.