



The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Bishop's Customary for Ordinations

ORDINATIONS TO THE DIACONATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate will most often occur as part of the Holy Eucharist at a diocesan gathering. This symbolizes the deacon serving the whole church and being directly connected to the bishop. Ordinations to the diaconate will also take place at other times and in other places, but only after the consultation and approval of the bishop. Most details of the liturgy will be similar to those found below for the ordination to the priesthood. No public announcement or invitation will be made until the Standing Committee has given its final approval and the bishop has given his final consent. It is the custom of the bishop to wash the feet of each ordinand prior to the ordination in a chapel or room separate from the nave. All clergy and the immediate family of the ordinand are invited to be present.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Ordinations to the priesthood will normally take place in the church of one's first call or assignment at a day and time to be determined by the bishop in consultation with the ordinand and the rector of the church. No public announcement or invitation will be made until the Standing Committee has given its final approval and the bishop has given his final consent.

SCHEDULING Ordinations to the priesthood will take place on feasts of the Church. In the case of major feasts, the Propers are to be those of the feast. In the case of Lesser Feasts, the Propers may be those of the Feast, of Ordination, or an appropriate combination of the two, approved by the Bishop. For ordinations that do not take place on Feasts, the Propers will be those for ordination. Except on the most exceptional of circumstances, we will not schedule ordinations during the season of Lent.

PREACHING While The Book of Common Prayer states it is the bishop's prerogative to be the preacher at all liturgies at which the bishop presides, the bishop yields this privilege to the ordinand's choice. The ordinand will submit the name of the preacher to the bishop for permission and approval before inviting the preacher. The ultimate invitation comes from the bishop, not the ordinand. Any priest or deacon in good standing in The Episcopal Church may be the preacher.

COLOR FOR THE OCCASION The liturgical color is that of the Feast. For ordinations that do not take place on Feasts, the color for ordination is red.

The ordinand vests in a plain white alb wearing no insignia of office. Clerical collar with black shirt shall be worn under the alb. All clergy participating in the liturgy should be dressed in a plain white alb and stole. Those attending, but not participating liturgically, should wear an alb OR cassock/surplice with either a stole [of the liturgical color of the occasion]

PROCESSION The procession into the church should be organized in a way to facilitate efficient movement into designated seating. Gestures of piety by choir, clergy and others in the procession should be kept to a minimum. At the ordination to the priesthood, clergy should be seated in a location that permits the priests to join in the laying on of hands. The presenters and the ordinand shall process to the location of the presentation and NOT go to the pews. They will move to their pews at the time of the litany. It is helpful to have a vergers who directs the procession.

MUSIC The hymn at the procession should take into account the extraordinary number of people usually involved in the procession. The hymn at the Gospel is to be sung, in total, before the reading of the Gospel. Communion hymns should be selected with the understanding that once communion concludes, music is to end as quickly as possible in order for the liturgy to continue. There will be no choral anthems after the conclusion of communion. This is a long service. Thus, selections for psalms, offertory anthems and other hymnody should be sensitive to the focus of the liturgy. This is not a choral performance.

FURNITURE The bishop is directed to use a chair for portions of the liturgy. A small chair that is easily moved is the preferred choice. Acolytes should be prepared to move the chair as necessary at the Exchange of the Peace. A small table should be placed near the location of the presentation of the ordinand. The certificate of ordination, a pen, the Bible and stole will be placed on the table in a way that is visible to the congregation.

PRESENTERS The Prayer Book only requires two presenters, a priest and a layperson. It is fine to have additional presenters, but if the group gets too large then it is difficult for the congregation to see and participate. Although family and close friends are often invited to present, please remember that the church you serve has called you to this ministry and it is their call to you, on behalf of the whole church, that makes it possible for the ordination process to proceed. The church you serve should be represented among the presenters. Only one priest presenter and one lay presenter will sign the certificate of ordination. Family members and close friends can participate in other ways in the liturgy, such as oblation bearers, lectors, etc.

DEACON There should be one deacon involved in the ordination. Normally, the deacons, chosen by the ordinand, should be deacons of the diocese. If there is a deacon assigned to the church in which the ordination takes place, out of courtesy, that deacon should serve. The deacon reads the Gospel, prepares the altar, accompanies and assists the bishop, serves communion and offers the dismissal. There is no need for a chaplain for the bishop.

THE LITANY FOR ORDINATION Consistent with the customs of the local church, the Litany for Ordinations can be either said or sung. As the architecture allows it, the ordinand will kneel next to the bishop. Prostration at the litany is not the norm in this diocese.

THE READINGS Laity, chosen by the ordinand, shall read the first two readings. The deacon shall read the Gospel. The deacon need not go to the bishop for a blessing before reading the Gospel. The deacon's ordination conferred all the blessing and authorization necessary to read the Gospel in the liturgy.

THE EXAMINATION At the time of the examination and ordination of the priest, the deacon is to stand on the bishop's left and hold the Prayer Book or service book. An acolyte is to stand on the bishop's right holding the crozier. The musical setting for the invocation of the Holy Spirit will be one that involves the congregation, the preferred choice is *Veni Sancte Spiritus* from Taizé, # 832 in *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. Composed by Jacques Berthier

VESTING At the time of the vesting of the new priest or deacon, the stole should be given to the bishop who will place the stole around the neck of the new priest or deacon. The bishop may give the stole to a family member or friend, chosen by the ordinand, to do this. If it is an ordination to the priesthood, others present may then vest the priest in a chasuble. A pectoral cross is a sign of the ministry of bishops and is not a part of the vesture or street dress of deacons or priests unless they are members of recognized religious orders.

After the Bible has been given to the new priest by the Bishop, other instruments or symbols of office may be given after consultation with the Bishop. The latter practice is neither encouraged nor discouraged.

THE BLESSING After the postcommunion prayer, the Bishop will invite the new priest to bless the people.

INVITATIONS Invitations are the responsibility of the congregation hosting the ordination service. Invitations should be extended to the clergy of the diocese, noting the vestments and color of stole for the occasion. Vesting is usually an alb or cassock/surplice with stole.

OTHER DETAILS All questions or clarifications should be addressed to the Bishop. A copy of the order of worship shall be submitted to the bishop for review and approval before printing. A rehearsal with the bishop present, shall occur at a convenient time before the service.