

The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar

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1. The Order of Laying a Foundation Stone or the Commencement of Work on the Building of a Church

INTRODUCTION

THE ORDER OF BLESSING

Part One: The Approach to the Place Where the Church Is to be Built

A. First Form: The Procession

Gathering

Greeting

Prayer

Procession: antiphon "My soul is longing" with Psalm 84

B. Second Form: The Station at the Place Where the New Church Is to Be Built

Acclamation: "May eternal peace"

Greeting

Prayer

Part Two: The Reading of the Word of God

One or more suitable passages of Sacred Scripture

Intervening Responsorial Psalm

Preferred Selection: Rite of the Dedication of a Church (*Lectionary for Mass*, no. 816 [vol. IV])

Homily

Part Three: The Blessing of the Site of the New Church

Prayer of Blessing of Site

Sprinkling of Site with Holy Water: antiphon "All your walls" with Psalm 48

Part Four: The Blessing and Laying of the Foundation Stone [if a foundation stone is to be laid]

Prayer of Blessing the Foundation Stone

Sprinkling of Stone with Holy Water

Placing of Stone with Prayer

Fixing of Stone: antiphon "The house of the Lord"

The Concluding Rites

Universal Prayer

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal

2. The Order of the Dedication of a Church

INTRODUCTION

I. The Nature and Dignity of Churches (nos. 1-3)

II. The Title of a Church and the Relics of the Saints to Be Deposited In It (nos. 4-5)

III. The Celebration of the Dedication (nos. 6-17)

The Minister of the Rite

The Choice of Day

The Mass of the Dedication

The Office of the Dedication

The Parts of the Rite

A. The Entrance into the Church

B. The Liturgy of the Word

C. The Prayer of Dedication and the Anointing of the Church and the Altar

The Deposition of the Relics of the Saints

The Prayer of Dedication

The Rites of Anointing, Incensation, Covering, and Lighting of the Altar

D. The Celebration of the Eucharist

IV. Adaptation of the Rite (nos. 18-19)

Adaptations within the Competence of the Conference of Bishops

Accommodations within the Competence of the Ministers

V. Pastoral Preparation (no. 20)

VI. The Requisites for the Dedication of a Church (nos. 21-25)

VII. The Anniversary of the Dedication (nos. 26-27)

A. The Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral Church

B. The Anniversary of the Dedication of One's Own Church

THE ORDER OF DEDICATION [OF A CHURCH]

Part One: The Introductory Rites

The Entrance into the Church

A. First Form: The Procession

Gathering

Greeting

Address

Procession: "Let us go rejoicing" w/ Ps 122

Handing Over of the Building to the Bishop

Opening of the Doors

Procession: "Grow higher, ancient doors" w/ Ps 24

** the altar is not kissed or incensed*

B. Second Form: The Solemn Entrance

Gathering [outside the doors]

Greeting

Address

"Let us go rejoicing" w/ Ps 122

Handing Over of the Building to the Bishop

Opening of the Doors

Procession: "Grow higher, ancient doors" w/ Ps 24

** the altar is not kissed or incensed*

C. Third Form: The Simple Entrance

Procession [from the vesting room to the sanctuary]:

"God is in his holy place" or "Let us go rejoicing" w/ Ps 122

** the altar is not kissed or incensed*

Greeting

Handing Over of the Building to the Bishop

The Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing the Water

Sprinkling of People and Walls, then Altar: "I saw water flowing from the Temple" or during Lent

"When I prove my holiness among you"

"May God, the Father of mercies"

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Collect [proper]

Part Two: The Liturgy of the Word

Showing of the Lectionary

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10 [required]

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 19B:8-9, 10, 15. R/. (see Jn 6:63c) Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. [required]

Second Reading: Rite of the Dedication of a Church (Lectionary for Mass, no. 816 [vol. IV])

Gospel Acclamation: Rite of the Dedication of a Church

Gospel: Rite of the Dedication of a Church

** incense is not used*

Homily

Creed

[Universal Prayer is always omitted]

Part Three: The Prayer of Dedication and the Anointings

The Litany of Supplication

Invitation

Litany

** add Titular, Patron, and Saints whose relics are to be deposited*

Concluding Prayer

The Deposition of Relics

Deposition and Closing of Aperture: antiphon

"Beneath the altar of God" with Psalm 15 or

antiphon "The bodies of the Saints" with Psalm 15

The Prayer of Dedication

The Anointing of the Altar and the Walls of the Church

"May the Lord by his power"

Anointing of Altar, then Walls [Bishop may be joined by Priests or entrust anointing of walls to them]:

"Behold God's dwelling" or "Holy is the temple of the Lord" w/ Ps 84

Washing of Hands

The Incensation of the Altar and the Church

Imposition of Incense in Brazier or on Altar

"Let our prayer rise, O Lord"

Imposition of Incense in Thuribles, Incensation of

Altar, then Incensation of Bishop, People, and

Place: "An Angel stood" or "In the presence of the Lord" or "Stetit" w/ Ps 138

The Lighting of the Altar and the Church

Wiping of Altar

Covering of Altar with Linens [and Decoration]

Arranging of Candlesticks and Cross

"Let the light of Christ"

Lighting of Altar, then Church: "Your light has

come" or during Lent "Jerusalem, city of God" w/

The Canticle of Tobit (Tob 13:10, 13-14ab, 14c-15, 17)

Part Four: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar

Procession with the Bread, Wine, and Water: "Lord God"

Veneration of the Altar

"Mass continues in the usual way"

** no incensation of the offerings or the altar*

Prayer over the Offerings [proper]

Eucharistic Prayer I or III [with proper parts]

Preface [proper required]

Communion: "My house" or "Like shoots of the olive" w/ Ps 128

The Inauguration of the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament [as appropriate]

Prayer after Communion

Transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Chapel:
"O Jerusalem" w/ Ps 147

Incensation of the Blessed Sacrament

Silent Prayer

Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Solemn Blessing [proper] and Dismissal (or where necessary, Return to Altar or Chair for Solemn Blessing and Dismissal)

If a Blessed Sacrament Chapel Is Not Inaugurated

Prayer after Communion [proper]

Solemn Blessing [proper]

Dismissal

**3. The Order of the Dedication of a Church
in Which Sacred Celebrations Are Already Regularly Taking Place**

Circumstances

The altar has not yet been dedicated

Something is new or greatly changed

- physical: complete restoration

- juridical: raise to status of parish church

Differences from the Dedication of a Church

Omit the handing over of the church to the Bishop

Omit the opening of the doors, unless the church has been closed for a long time

Omit the rite of sprinkling

Omit rites associated with the first proclamation of the Word

Reading and Psalm other than Neh 8 and Ps 19 may be chosen

4. The Order of the Dedication of an Altar

INTRODUCTION

I. The Nature and Dignity of Churches (nos. 1-5)

The Christian Is Also a Spiritual Altar

The Altar, The Table of the Sacrifice and of the Paschal Banquet

The Altar, a Sign of Christ

The Altar, Honor of the Martyrs

II. The Building of an Altar (nos. 6-11)

III. The Celebration of the Dedication (nos. 12-23)

The Minister of the Rite

The Choice of Day

The Mass of the Dedication

The Parts of the Rite

A. The Introductory Rites

B. The Liturgy of the Word

C. The Prayer of Dedication and the Anointing of the Altar

The Deposition of the Relics of the Saints

The Prayer of Dedication

The Rites of Anointing, Incensation, Covering, and Lighting of the Altar

D. The Celebration of the Eucharist

IV. Adaptation of the Rite (nos. 24-25)

Adaptations within the Competence of the Conference of Bishops

Accommodations within the Competence of the Ministers

V. Pastoral Preparation (no. 26)

VI. The Requisites for the Dedication of a Church (nos. 27-30)

THE ORDER OF DEDICATION [OF AN ALTAR]

Part One: The Introductory Rites

The Entrance into the Church

Gathering

Procession: "Turn your eyes" or "I will come" w/ Ps 43

** the altar is not kissed or incensed*

Greeting

The Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing the Water

Sprinkling of People, then Altar: "I saw water flowing from the Temple" or during Lent "When I prove my holiness among you"

"May God, the Father of mercies"

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Collect [proper]

Part Two: The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Rite of the Dedication of an Altar (*Lectionary for Mass*, no. 817-822 [vol. IV]) or Mass of the Day

Responsorial Psalm: Rite of the Dedication of an Altar or Mass of the Day

Second Reading: Rite of the Dedication of an Altar or Mass of the Day

Gospel Acclamation: Rite of the Dedication of an Altar or Mass of the Day

Gospel: Rite of the Dedication of an Altar or Mass of the Day

** incense is not used*

Homily

Creed

[Universal Prayer is always omitted]

Part Three: The Prayer of Dedication and the Anointings

The Litany of Supplication

Invitation

Litany

** add Titular, Patron, and Saints whose relics are to be deposited*

Concluding Prayer

The Deposition of Relics

Deposition and Closing of Aperture: "Beneath the altar of God" or "The bodies of the Saints" w/ Ps 15

The Prayer of Dedication

The Anointing of the Altar and the Walls of the Church

"May the Lord by his power"

Anointing of Altar: "God, your God" w/ Ps 45 or during Easter Time "The stone" w/ Ps 118

Washing of Hands

The Incensation of the Altar

Imposition of Incense in Brazier or on Altar

"Let our prayer rise, O Lord"

Imposition of Incense in Thuribles

Incensation of Altar, then of Bishop and People: "An Angel stood" or "In the presence of the Lord" or "Stetit" w/ Ps 138

The Lighting of the Altar

Wiping of Altar

Covering of Altar with Linens [and Decoration]

Arranging of Candlesticks and Cross

"May the light of Christ"

Lighting of Altar: "With you, O Lord"

Part Four: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar

Procession with Bread, Wine, and Water: "If you offer your gift" or "Moses"

Veneration of the Altar

"Mass continues in the usual way"

** no incensation of the offerings or the altar*

Prayer over the Offerings [proper]

Eucharistic Prayer I or III

Preface [proper required]

Communion: "The sparrow finds a home" or "Like shoots of the olive" w/ Ps 128

Prayer after Communion [proper]

Solemn Blessing [proper]

Dismissal

5. The Order of Blessing a Church

INTRODUCTION

THE ORDER OF BLESSING

Part One: The Introductory Rites

The Entrance into the Church

Procession (from the vesting room to the sanctuary)

** the altar is not kissed or incensed*

The Blessing and Sprinkling of Water

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing the Water

Sprinkling of People and Walls, then altar: "I saw water flowing from the Temple" or during Lent "When I prove my holiness among you"

"May God, the Father of mercies"

Gloria in excelsis Deo (except on Sundays and weekdays of Advent and Lent)

Collect [of the day]

Part Two: Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Rite of the Dedication of a Church (*Lectionary for Mass*, no. 816 [vol. IV]) or Mass of Day (when required)

Responsorial Psalm: Rite of the Dedication of a Church or Mass of Day (when required)

Second Reading: Rite of the Dedication of a Church or Mass of Day (when required)

Gospel Acclamation: Rite of the Dedication of a Church or Mass of Day (when required)

Gospel: Rite of the Dedication of a Church or Mass of Day (when required)

** incense is not used*

Homily

Creed

Universal Prayer

Part Three: The Blessing of the Altar

Bishop Goes to the Altar: "Like shoots of the olive"

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing the Church and Altar

Incensation of Altar, then of Bishop and People

Part Four: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Covering of Altar [and Decoration]

Arranging of Candlesticks and Cross

Preparation of the Altar

Procession with Bread, Wine, and Water: "If you offer your gift" or "Moses"

Veneration of the Altar

"Mass continues in the usual way"

** no incensation of the offerings or the altar*

Prayer over the Offerings [of the day]

Preface [of the day]

Communion [antiphon of the day]

Prayer after Communion [of the day]

Solemn Blessing [proper]

Dismissal

6. The Order of Blessing an Altar

INTRODUCTION

THE ORDER OF BLESSING

"At Mass [of the day] everything takes place in the usual way. When the Universal Prayer is concluded, the Bishop goes to the altar that is to be blessed."

The Blessing of the Altar

Bishop Goes to the Altar: "Like shoots of the olive"

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing the Altar

Sprinkling of Altar

Incensation of Altar, then of Bishop and People

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Covering of Altar [and Decoration]

Arranging of Candlesticks and Cross

Preparation of the Altar

Procession with the Bread, the Wine, and the Water: "If you offer your gift"

Veneration of the Altar

"Mass continues in the usual way"

** no incensation of the offerings or the altar*

Prayer over the Offerings [of the day]

Preface [of the day]

Communion [antiphon of the day]

Prayer after Communion [of the day]

Blessing

Dismissal

7. The Order of Blessing a Chalice and a Paten

THE ORDER OF BLESSING TO BE USED WITHIN MASS

Introductory Rites

Liturgy of the Word

When permitted, one or two readings may be taken from those provided for this blessing

“When the Universal Prayer is concluded, the ministers, or representatives of the community presenting the chalice and paten, place these latter on the altar.”: “The chalice”

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing

Preparation of the Altar

Procession with the Bread, the Wine, and the Water:
“The chalice” w/ Ps 116

“According to the circumstances of the celebration, it is fitting that the faithful receive the Blood of Christ from the newly blessed chalice.”

THE ORDER OF BLESSING TO BE USED OUTSIDE MASS

Gathering

Procession: “The chalice” w/ Ps 116

Greeting

Address

The Reading of the Word of God

Homily

“After the Homily the ministers, or representatives of the community presenting the chalice and paten, place these latter on the altar.”: “The chalice”

Invitation

Prayer of Blessing

Universal Prayer

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal