

## Confirmation Ordination to Subdeacon

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

*Instructions are in italics.*

*This service is used to confirm the ordinations of those serving in the various minor orders, prior to their ordination to the diaconate.*

*It is intended only for those who have demonstrated their ministries through experience in the minor orders in readiness for the diaconate.*

### **The Collect**

**Bishop:** Almighty, everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole of the church is made holy and governed, pour forth your sanctifying grace into the hearts of this your servant/these your servants, who is/are about to be numbered among the subdeacons of your church, that with a pure heart and an open mind she/he/they may faithfully receive your blessing from on high; through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **A Collect for Peace**

**Bishop:** Teach us, O Lord, to see your life in everything and in all the peoples of the earth and so guide the nations into the understanding of your laws that peace and goodwill may reign upon earth; through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*The collects being ended, the bishop takes a seat upon a faldstool before the altar. All are seated, the ordinands come forward bearing lighted candles and someone appointed for the purpose presents them to the bishop, saying:*

**Proposer:** Let those who are to be ordained to the order of subdeacon come forward.

*The ordinands take a step forward, their candles are taken from them and put on the altar. All are seated.*

**Bishop:** Dearly beloved brothers (sisters), in previous times the order of the subdiaconate was seen as a grade of probation for the greater orders of deacon and priest. It gives to those who receive it greater steadfastness of purpose to the end that, with singleness of heart, they may dedicate their lives to Christ in his holy church. So great, indeed, is the responsibility laid upon those who in these greater orders become Christ's representatives, that a season of trial for the preparatory grade was often appointed.

*Addressing the ordinands:*

**Bishop:** You, well beloved brother/sister having already offered yourself to the service of God and to help forward His Kingdom on earth, are now moved to devote yourself still further to his service and that of his church. For this purpose we invoke the Divine

Blessing; and, with the help and ready concurrence of the faithful, shall now proceed in the exercise of our office to bring you as a holy oblation into the presence of Christ, not doubting that at the latter end, you, having the witness of faithful service, you will shine, pure and lustrous, as jewels in the crown of our Master.

*The bishop rises and addresses those present as follows:*

**Bishop:** Let us pray, dearest faithful, that almighty God, in his great lovingkindness and watchful care over his church, may bestow a plentiful grace on this acolyte/ these acolytes, now about to be raised to the order of the subdiaconate.

*The bishop sits on the faldstool*

**Bishop:** You that come before us have been admitted and served first as clerics; the first step in being set aside for the ministry of Christ. Then as Doorkeepers you held the way into the church forever open to believers, yet protected the church from dark and undesirable forces. As Exorcists, to the healing through prayer of those in the church, as Readers by delivering the scriptures, and as Acolytes in preparing the altar items and furniture. Now these minor orders have been recognised, and confirmed in you the next step is that of sub-deacon, the final minor order and pre-cursor to the diaconate and Holy Orders.

**Bishop:** Dearly beloved in Christ, who are about to be admitted to the office of subdeacon, you should know what was in former times committed to your ministry. It was the duty of the subdeacon to provide water for the service at the altar, to minister to the deacon, to wash the altar cloths and corporals, to present to the deacon the chalice and paten to be used at the sacrifice, to guard the church doors or the gates of the sanctuary and in later times to read the epistles before the people. Endeavour then to fulfil those duties that still form the visible part of this office in such a way as to show true reverence for the inner things they typify. The altar of the holy church is the throne of Christ. So strive earnestly to follow the example of our divine Master, so that you may meetly minister at the divine sacrifice, both in the invisible sanctuary of your heart as in the visible sanctuary of the church.

**Bishop:** We ask of you that you pay particular attention to developing within you certain virtues of character, symbolised in the vestments belonging to this order. By the amice, control of speech; by the maniple, the love of service or diligence in all good works; by the tunicle, the spirit of joy and gladness. Develop within yourselves confidence in the good law, which may be interpreted as a recognition of the plan revealed by almighty God for the perfecting of creation.

**Bishop:** Will you strive, as far as in you lies, to order your life accordingly?

**Ordinand:** I will.

*The bishop rises and with both hands extended towards the ordinands, who kneel before her/him, says the following prayer, momentarily holding the crozier when making the sign of the cross over the ordinands:*

**Bishop:** O Lord Christ, the fountain of all goodness, who bestows on all who serve thee the gifts they need to fulfil their various offices, graciously regard this your child/these your children who we now present for the order of the subdiaconate and so + open to your heavenly grace her/his/their hearts and minds that she/he/they may be steadfast in your holy service. Increase in her/him/them the sevenfold gift of the Spirit that, growing in the knowledge of things eternal, she/he/they may offer her life/his life/their lives as a holy and continual sacrifice unto you, O great King of Love, to whom be praise and adoration from all mankind and from the angel host.

**All:** Amen.

*The bishop rises and lays the right hand upon the head of each ordinand, saying to each:*

**Bishop:** In the Name of Christ our Lord, I admit you to the order of Subdeacon.

*The bishop is seated and hands each new subdeacon the empty chalice and paten, cruets, lavabo bowl and towel. The new subdeacon touches each of these with his/her right hand, the bishop saying:*

**Bishop:** Look after the things given to you for your ministry and may your behaviour be fitting in the sight of God.

*The bishop touches the amice (or lays a hand upon the shoulder) of each ordinand:*

**Bishop:** Take the amice as symbol for the control of tongue. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*The bishop places the maniple on the left arm (or touches the left arm) of each ordinand,:*

**Bishop:** Take the maniple as symbol for the fruit of good works. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*The bishop vests each new subdeacon with the tunicle, saying:*

**Bishop:** The Lord clothe you with the garment of gladness and the vesture of joy. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

*The bishop delivers to each new subdeacon the book of epistles, saying:*

**Bishop:** Take the book of Epistles and receive the authority to read them in the church of God, both for the living and the dead. In the name of the + Father and of the + Son and of the Holy + Spirit.

**All:** Amen

*The bishop rises and blesses the new subdeacons:*

**Bishop:** The blessing of God Almighty, the + Father, the + Son and the Holy + Spirit come down upon you, that with steadfastness and zeal you may persevere in that which you have undertaken today.

**All:** Amen.

**At an occasion like annual synod the new sub-deacons are presented for further ordination in the same occasion.**

*Please pray for the new sub-deacon(s) in the coming weeks and again on the first anniversary of this occasion. Please also pray for the Old Catholic Apostolic Church.*