

Ordination of Acolytes

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

Instructions are in italics.

This service is intended to be used as part of another service – principally the Eucharist. It may however be used alone if desired – in which case Bible readings and prayers should be introduced as necessary. A priest may conduct this service with faculty or express permission from the Bishop. The people are seated. A priest or suitable person calls the ordinands forward.

The Call

Priest: Please stand.

Bishop: Let those to be ordained to the order of acolyte come forward.

Priest: Ordinand [name] to be set apart as a server at the altar.

All: Amen.

The bishop, with miter and crozier, sits on the faldstool before the altar. A priest presents the candidates and announces their names. The people are standing. Each one bows gently, goes before the altar and kneels, holding a lighted candle in the right hand. Once the ordinands are kneeling before the altar the people are seated.

The bishop addresses them as follows:

Bishop: Dearly beloved, you are to receive the office of acolyte, consider what it is that you receive. The duty of the acolyte is to carry the candlestick; to light the lights of the church, and most of all to minister wine and water at the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Endeavor to discharge worthily the office of Server, of Acolyte. For you cannot be pleasing to God if in your hands you carry the light for God and in your hearts are slaves of darkness and give to those that see you the example of faithlessness.

Rather, as the Truth says: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." And as the apostle Paul says: "In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. Therefore, let your loins be girded and hold burning lamps in your hands, that you may be children of the light. Cast off the works of darkness and put on the vestments of light. For you were in darkness, but now are in the light of the Lord. Walk then as children of the light."

What we understand by that light on which the Apostle insists so much, he himself explains: "For the fruit of the light is in all goodness and justice and truth."

Be fervent, therefore, in all justice and goodness and truth, that you may enlighten yourselves and others and the Church of God. For then you will worthily minister wine and water at the divine Sacrifice when you have offered yourselves as a sacrifice to the Lord by being Godly and quietly patient and by good works. May the Lord in His mercy grant it to you.

All: Amen.

The candles are laid on the credence table.

The Bestowal

The bishop now presents to each candidate a candlestick with an unlighted candle. Each one touches both, the candlestick with the thumb, and the candle with the index finger of the right hand, while the bishop says:

Bishop: Receive the candlestick with the candle, and know that it is your duty to light the lights of the church in the name of the Lord.

Acolyte: Amen.

An empty cruet is presented to them. They touch it, while the bishop says:

Bishop: Receive the cruet, to minister wine and water for the Eucharist of the Blood of Christ, in the name of Christ the Lord.

Acolyte: Amen.

Prayer of Blessing

The candidates kneel. The bishop rises, assumes the miter and, facing them, prays:

Bishop: Dearly beloved brethren, let us humbly call on God, the Father Almighty, to + bless these servants in the order of acolyte, that as they carry the material light in their hands, may they also send forth a spiritual light by their serving, through the help of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with Him and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

The bishop, removes the miter, turns to the altar and says:

Bishop: Let Us Pray. Let us bend our knees and open our hearts. Send your blessing on these servants of Your altar about to be commissioned.

All: Amen.

Turning again to the candidates kneeling before him, the bishop prays:

Bishop: Holy Lord, Father Almighty, eternal God, you have sent the light of Your glory into this world through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, and His apostles, and have willed that, in order to blot out the ancient debt of our death He should be fastened to the most glorious standard of the Cross and that blood and water should flow from His side, for the salvation of all mankind. + bless these servants for the office of acolyte, that they may faithfully serve at the Holy Altar, attend to the illumination of Your Church, and minister wine and water for the consecration of the blood of Christ, Your Son, at the Eucharistic Sacrifice. O Lord, kindle in their minds and hearts the love of Your grace, so that, bright with the splendor of Your countenance, they may faithfully serve in Your Holy Church. In the name of Christ our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Let Us Pray

Holy Lord, Father Almighty, eternal God, who spoke to Moses and Aaron that lamps should be lighted in the Tabernacle of the Testimony, bless + these servants, that they may be acolytes in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The bishop assumes the mitre, and with crozier prays over the new acolytes.

Bishop: Let Us Pray

Almighty, everlasting God, Fountain of light and Source of goodness, who has enlightened the world through Your Son Jesus Christ, the true light, and have redeemed it through the mystery of His Passion, + bless these servants whom we ordain to the office of acolyte. We pray that You will fill their hearts and minds with the light of knowledge, and to refresh them with the blessing of Your tender love, that they may so fulfill the office assumed today as if an everlasting reward. Through the same Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The new Acolyte(s) are led to the sanctuary. The service continues with Mass. If this is a standalone service, the clergy process out of the church led by the new Acolyte(s).

The candles on the altar are extinguished

END of service

Please pray for yourselves and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church regularly.