

Parish Mass with the Bishop when there is no Master of Ceremonies

At times, the bishop will have the assistance of a Master of Ceremonies but more often than not, and especially in the more rural areas, there will be need for a person designated to attend to his miter and pastoral staff. As such, it is helpful to have an additional server assigned to liturgies at which the bishop is presiding who will attend solely to the bishop.

This list of protocols is provided so that pastors will be more prepared to assist the bishop when he presides in a parish.

Liturgical Protocol

- Upon approaching the sanctuary and when arriving before the altar, before he bows or genuflects, the bishop will hand his pastoral staff (crosier) to a server who is not carrying a candle or cross and then remove his miter and likewise hand it to the MC or server. The server places the pastoral staff in its stand and the miter on a table close at hand.
- The server who will be holding the Roman Missal for the Collects is to have it readied in order that it be before the bishop before it is time for him to announce the invitation to pray the Collects, i.e., “Let us pray.”
- Immediately following the Opening Collect, the server retrieves the miter with both hands, walks directly in front of the bishop, hands the miter to him.
- At the beginning of the Gospel acclamation, the bishop will remain seated for the deacon (or priest) to receive a blessing. The server will first retrieve the miter from the bishop and then bring him the pastoral staff. The bishop takes the pastoral staff at the words, “A reading from the holy Gospel according to...” [if incense is used in a thurifer, a server brings it to the bishop for blessing while he still is seated.] After the proclamation of the Gospel is finished, the server retrieves the pastoral staff.
- Following the Prayer over the Gifts, the server receives the zucchetto from the bishop and places it on his chair.
- Immediately following the Post-communion Collect, the server brings the bishop the miter and pastoral staff. If the Solemn Blessing is used, the bishop will extend hands over the assembly while the server with the pastoral staff waits patiently. The server will hand the pastoral staff to the bishop following the invocations for the final Blessing over the people.