

## **DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE**

### **MINISTERIAL ROLES for the SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

#### **Pastor:**

1. If there is no deacon, the pastor proclaims the Gospel after receiving the usual blessing from the bishop beforehand.
2. If there is no deacon, the pastor holds the Chrism for the bishop during the Confirmation Rite.
3. The pastor, after the Post-Communion Prayer – and if at all possible never from the ambo where the Word of God is read – specifically thanks:
  - a) *by name*: the parochial vicar, deacon, DRE/CRE, Confirmation coordinator, principal, teachers/catechists, other assistants, music director, and emcee (*NOTE*: if the names are already listed in the program or a program insert as recommended, a general reference can be made);
  - b) *by category*, the lectors, servers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, ushers and decorators; and
  - c) *by category*, the parents *and* sponsors for their support and encouragement of the newly-confirmed; and
  - d) invites everyone to the reception, indicating its place. (Then the bishop will add his own personal comments.)

#### **Deacon (if any be participating):**

1. A deacon processes in carrying the Book of the Gospels and places it flat on the altar (if more than one deacon is present, the deacon's place in procession is at the bishop's side). A deacon reverences the altar with a kiss before moving to his chair.
2. One deacon sits to the bishop's right. If there are two deacons, they flank the bishop on either side. If there is a third deacon, he sits near the ambo and is the one who proclaims the Gospel.
3. If Form C of the Penitential Rite is used, a deacon announces each invocation. If, alternatively, there is a sprinkling rite, the deacon(s) may assist the bishop with it.
4. A deacon proclaims the Gospel after receiving the usual blessing from the bishop beforehand (if incense is used, the deacon announces the Gospel reading, incenses the Book, and then proclaims the Gospel).
5. A deacon holds the Chrism for the bishop during the Confirmation Rite.
6. At the conclusion of the Confirmation Rite, a deacon leads the General Intercessions after the bishop's introduction. This should not be from the ambo if another station is available (if at all possible only the Word of God is proclaimed from the ambo.)
7. At the Preparation of the Gifts, the deacon(s) assist the servers in preparing the table with the corporal, Missal, and chalices. The deacon(s) go with the bishop to receive the gifts. The deacon mixes a little water into the wine, and fills the chalices. If incense is used after the bishop incenses the gifts, a deacon incenses the bishop, and then incenses the other clergy and the congregation.
8. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the deacon(s) may kneel from the epiclesis prayer until after the consecration of the chalice (all deacons present adopt the same posture, please). At the final doxology before the Great Amen, a deacon elevates the chalice as the bishop lifts up the paten or ciborium.
9. During the Communion Rite the deacon properly invites the people to share a Sign of Peace, receives Holy Communion from the bishop, and helps to distribute the Blood of Christ.
10. During the Concluding Rite, the deacon invites the people to bow their heads for the final blessing, and after the blessing announces the dismissal. The deacon(s) reverence the altar with a kiss and process out flanking the bishop; the Book of the Gospels is never carried out.
11. Note: only deacons with competent voices should attempt singing the various sung invitations/prayers, etc.

#### **Lectors:**

1. Each Scripture reading should be proclaimed by a different lector.
2. If there is no deacon, a lector processes in carrying the Book of the Gospels and places it flat on the altar before going to his/her chair. Other lectors may process in as well. The lectionary, however, is never carried in procession.
3. At the conclusion of the Confirmation Rite, if there is no deacon, a lector leads the General Intercessions after the bishop's introduction. This should not be from the ambo if another station is available (if at all possible only the Word of God is proclaimed from the ambo.)
4. If the lectors processed in, they should join in the recessional in the same manner, but the Book of the Gospels is never carried out.

#### **Emcee:**

Refer to the "Liturgical Instruction for the Sacrament of Confirmation"; if there is more than one emcee, it is best if one principally assists the bishop, deacon and servers, while the other looks after the readers, confirmandi, gift bearers, and concelebrants. Make sure that the confirmation candidates will be seated together as a group in the church (with their sponsors also seated as a separate group, not sitting with the candidates).