

The Ordination of a Priest

During the Liturgy after the Great Entrance...“the subdeacons bring the Hierarch’s chair and place it in front of the Holy Table, a little to the north side, so as not to have his back turned to the Artophorion on the Holy Table. The Hierarch is then seated, holding the staff and wearing the small omophorion and mitre. The candidate for the diaconate is led through the northern door by two deacons, one on each side with the dicherion and the tricherion on their hands. Each lays his hand upon the candidate’s neck, and holds him by the hands with the other. They bow him down as low as possible.” A deacon from the sanctuary says:

Deacon 1: Command!

The candidate prostrates to the ground and then immediately rises. Moving closer to the Holy Place, another deacon exclaims:

Deacon 2: Command!

Again the candidate prostrates and rises. The deacons lead the candidate to the Holy Doors. The candidate makes a third prostration to the ground and the Protodeacon exclaims:

Deacon 1: Command, Most Reverend Master, him who comes and wishes to receive ordination into the order of presbyter for the service of the Eparchy of Saint George in Canton.

Two deacons lead the candidate to the Bishop, who signs the kneeling candidate three times on the head with the sign of the Cross. The deacons lead the candidate around the Holy Table three times. He kisses the four corners of the altar, as the choir sings:

Troparia * Tone 7

People: O holy martyrs, you who fought the good fight and received the crown of glory, pray to the Lord, that He may have mercy on our souls!

People: Glory to You, O Christ our God, the praise of the Apostles and the joy of the martyrs, whose preaching is the Trinity, one in essence.

Tone 5

People: Dance, O Isaiah! The Virgin was with Child and bore a Son, Emmanuel, God and man: the Orient is His name. In glorifying Him, we praise the Virgin.

The bishop is seated on a chair in front of, but a bit towards the north side of the Holy Table.

Each time the candidate passes the bishop he makes three metanies towards the bishop, kissing his omophorion, his epigonation and his hand/cross.

The candidate makes three great metanias before the Holy Table and then kneels at the holy altar on both knees; crosses his hands he rests his forehead on the altar, on the right hand side of the altar. The bishop, standing without the mitre, places the end of the omophorion upon the head of the candidate; makes the sign of the cross over his head three times, then lays his right hand on his head. The Priest says:

Priest 1: Let us be attentive!

The bishop then says the following Prayer of Ordination:

Bishop: Divine Grace, which always heals the infirm and fulfill what is needed, elevate the devout deacon, Ronald Harry Hilt to the Presbyterate. Therefore, let us pray for him, that the grace of the Holy Spirit may come upon him.

One of the priests says:

Priest 2: Let us pray to the Lord!

The clergy in the altar together with the cantor sing:

Clergy: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The bishop blesses the head of the candidate three times, saying:

Bishop: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, + and of the Holy + Spirit. Amen.

The bishop again lays his hand upon the head of the candidate and quietly says the following prayer:

Bishop: O God, without beginning and without end, Who are above every created thing; Who crowns with the name of Presbyter those whom You deem worthy to serve the word of Your Truth: You Lord of all, deign to preserve in purity of life and in unswerving faith this man, upon whom, through me, You have graciously been pleased to lay hands. Grant to him the great grace of Your Holy Spirit, and make him totally Your servant, in all things acceptable to You, and worthily exercising the great honors of the Priesthood which You have conferred upon him by Your foreseeing Power.

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit: now and always and forever and ever. Amen.

*The priest designated by the Bishop, in a low voice, recites the ektenia. The clergy in the altar answer: " **Lord have mercy**" (during which time the Bishop recites the following prayer).*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of all the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who with faith and reverence, and in the fear of God enter it, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Most Reverend Bishop John Michael, for his protection, preservation, health and salvation, and for all the work of his hands, let us pray to the Lord.

For the servant of God the priest Paul Lewis Volda, who is now ordained and for his salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

That our God, the Lover of Mankind, grant him a pure and blameless presbyterate, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for all the cities and villages (towns), and for all who in faith dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may be delivered from all distress, wrath, tribulation and want, let us pray to the Lord.

Preserve, help, save and have mercy on us, O God, by your grace.

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and our entire lives to Christ our God.

Clergy: To You, O Lord.

Meanwhile the Bishop recites this prayer:

Bishop: O God, great in power and inscrutable in wisdom, marvelous in counsel, above the sons of men: You O, Lord, fill with the gift of Your Holy Spirit this man whom it has pleased you to advance to the degree of Priest, that he may be worthy to stand in innocence before Your Altar: to proclaim the Gospel of Your Kingdom; to minister the word of Your Truth; to offer to You spiritual gifts and sacrifices, to renew Your people through the laver of rebirth, that when he, as well, will go to meet You, at the Second Coming of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, may receive the reward from your abundant goodness of this degree committed to him.

The Bishop concludes this prayer and the Great Litany with the following doxology:

For blessed and glorified is Your All-Holy and majestic Name: of the Father, **[+]** and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

Clergy: Amen.

Then they raise up the newly ordained priest, and remove his Orarion (Deacon's stole), Sticharion (deacon's vestment) and epimanikia (cuffs).

*The bishop leads the newly ordained priest to the Holy Doors, presents him to the people and gives him each of the **vestments of the priest**: the priest's sticharion (alb), epitachelion (stole), zone (cincture), epimanikia (cuffs), and phelonion (chasuble), saying with each vestment:*

Bishop: He is worthy! (Vrednic este!)

People and the Cantor respond: He is worthy! (Vrednic este!)

Cantor sings: He is worthy! He is worthy! He is worthy! (Vrednic este!)

The newly ordained priest receives each vestment kissing the vestment's cross and the bishop's hand.

The newly ordained priest fully vested goes forth and kisses the bishop on both shoulders and his hand. The newly ordained priest then kisses the Archimandrites and all the concelebrants on the shoulders, then he turns towards the people from the Holy Doors bowing in front to the right and to the left, and then he takes his place at the holy table as the first priest on the right hand side of the Bishop.

The bishop then blesses the people with the dikerotrikera from the deacons while the cantor sings:

Cantor: For many years, O Master. (Intru multi ani, Stapane!)

Before the ephonies "Especially for our most Blessed..." the newly ordained priest comes to the left hand side of the Bishop who will give the priest on the disc or the sponge the Precious Body of Our Lord (agnel), saying:

Bishop: Receive and preserve this Treasure until the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He will ask this Treasure from you.

The newly ordained receives the Precious Body, kisses Bishop's hand, and goes to the middle of the East of the Altar praying: Lord have mercy – 40 times, Psalm 50 and other prayers.

Right before Bishop will say: "The Holy things unto the Holy," the newly ordained priest comes to the Bishop and gives him the Precious Body. Also the newly ordained priest will be the first priest among the other priests to receive communion. He will also be the priest that will say the Ambon prayer.