

Episcopal Consecration Ceremony Explained

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things do I believe."

Consecrator: "Do you believe also in the Holy Ghost full and perfect and true God, proceeding from the Father and the Son, coequal and co-essential, consubstantial and coeternal in all things with the Father and Son?"

Response: "I believe."

Consecrator: "Do you believe that this Holy Trinity is not three Gods, but one God Almighty, eternal, invisible and unchangeable?"

Response: "I believe."

Consecrator: "Do you believe that the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church is the one true church in which there is but one true baptism and the true remission of all sins?"

Response: "I believe."

Consecrator: "Do you also anathematize every heresy that shall rise against this Holy Catholic Church?"

Response: "I do anathematize it."

Consecrator: "Do you believe also in true resurrection of this same flesh of yours, and in life everlasting?"

Response: "I do believe."

Consecrator: "Do you believe also that God, the Lord Almighty, is the sole Origin of the new and old Testament, of the Law, and of the Prophets, and of the Apostles?"

Response: "I do believe."

Consecrator: "May this faith be increased in thee, by the Lord, unto true and eternal happiness, dearest brother in Christ."

Response: (By all) "Amen."

THE examination being finished, the assistant Consecrators lead the Bishop-elect to the Consecrator whose hand is reverently kissed by the Bishop-elect, kneeling. Then the Consecrator, standing before the altar, the Bishop-elect at his left, begins the Mass for the Feast of St. Pius V, pope and confessor, saying, in the usual manner, the Confession. The assistant Consecrators, standing in their own proper places do likewise with their chaplains.

Following the Confessions the assistant Consecrators lead the Bishop-elect to his chapel. After he has laid aside the cope, the acolytes put on his buskins and sandals. He receives the pectoral cross and is vested with tunic, dalmatic, chasuble and maniple. He advances to his altar and, standing between the assistant Consecrators, reads the usual parts of the Mass up to the Alleluia of the Gradual. The Consecrator going up to the altar with his ministers continues the Mass.

Following the Introit, the Kyrie and the Gloria, the Consecrator sings the prayers of the Mass of the Day including this special prayer for the Bishop-elect:

Consecrator: "Hear our prayers, O Almighty God, so that the work of our humble ministrations may be given fulfillment by Thy power, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, Forever and ever, Amen."

After the Epistle and the Gradual, which follow, the Consecrator goes to the altar and there sits wearing his mitre. The assistant Consecrators again lead the Bishop-elect to the Consecrator, to whom the Bishop-elect, having laid aside his biretta bows profoundly. The assistants, with their mitres on, bow alighly to the Consecrator. Then all sit as before. The Consecrator says:

Consecrator: "A Bishop judges, interprets, consecrates, ordains, offers, baptizes and confirms."

Then, all rising, the Consecrator, standing with his mitre on, says to those surrounding him:

Consecrator: "Let us pray, dearest brethren, that the kindness of the Almighty God, providing for the good of His Church, may bestow the abundance of His grace upon this Elect, through Christ Our Lord, Amen."

And then the Consecrator before his faldstool, and the assistant Consecrators before theirs, all with their

mitres on, kneel. The Bishop-elect, however, prostrates himself at the left of the Consecrator; the ministers and all others kneel. Then the choir sings the Litany of the Saints.

During the Litany, the Consecrator rises, turns towards the Bishop-elect, and taking in his left hand the pastoral staff, sings three times:

Consecrator: "That thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless this Elect here present." To each iteration those about him respond:

Response: "We beseech Thee, hear us."

Meanwhile, the Consecrator makes the Sign of the Cross three times over the Bishop-elect. The assistant Consecrators do and say the same, remaining kneeling.

Then the Consecrator again kneels and the Chanters continue the litany to the end.

The litany finished, all rise: The Consecrator stands, with his mitre on, before his faldstool; the Bishop-elect kneels before him.

Then the Consecrator, with the aid of the assistant Consecrators, taking the open book of the Gospels, saying nothing, lays it upon the neck and shoulders of the Bishop-elect, so that the printed page touches the neck. One of the chaplains kneels behind, supporting the book until it is given into the hands of the Bishop-elect.

THEN the Consecrator and the assistant Consecrators touch with both hands the head of the one to be consecrated, saying:

"RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST"
(The imposition of hands with the words of Christ, "receive the Holy Ghost," is the essential and simple rite by which the Episcopal Order is conferred.)

This being done, the Consecrator, standing without mitre, says:

Consecrator: "Be propitious, O Lord, to our supplications, and bestowing the abundance of sacerdotal grace upon this Thy servant, pour upon him the power of Thy blessing. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God."

The Preface follows, in the midst of which one of the chaplains binds the head of the Bishop-elect with a long cloth, and the Consecrator, facing the altar and prostrate on both knees, intones the opening words of the hymn "Come Holy Ghost, Creator, Come," which the choir continues.

At the conclusion of the first verse, the Consecrator rises and sits on the faldstool, takes his mitre, lays aside his gloves, and receives the gemmal or apron from the ministers. The Bishop-elect kneels before him, and the Consecrator dips the thumb of his right hand in the holy chrism (holy oil) and anoints the head of Bishop-elect, making first the Sign of the Cross on the crown and then anointing the rest of the crown, saying:

Consecrator: "May thy head be anointed and consecrated by heavenly benediction in the Pontifical Order."

Making the Sign of the Cross three times over the head of the Bishop-elect saying:

Consecrator: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Response: "Amen."

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER	
Bishops	2
Priests	481
Diocesan Chaplains	13
Religious	115
Ukrainians	6
Parishes	142
Seminaries	2
Students	460
College for Women	1
Students	407
College for Men	1
Students	220
Schools of Nursing	4
Students	313
Secondary Schools	12
Students	4,868
Elementary Schools	84
Pupils	33,244
Orphanage	1
Children	105
Total Number Pupils	39,633
Home for Aged	1
Guests	199
Hospitals	4
Bed Capacity	877
Patients 1951	35,906
Catholic Population	320,700

Consecrator: "Peace be with thee."

Response: "And with thy spirit."

He rises after the anointing and continues the Preface:

Consecrator: "May this O Lord, flow abundantly upon his head; may this run down upon his cheeks; may this spread unto the extremities of his whole body, so that inwardly he may be filled with the power of Thy Spirit, and outwardly may be clothed with that same Spirit. May constant faith, pure love, sincere piety abound in him. May his feet by Thy gift be beautiful for announcing the glad tidings of peace, for announcing the glad tidings of Thy good things. Grant to him, O Lord, the ministry of reconciliation in word and in deed, in the power of signs and of wonders. Let his speech and his preaching be not in the persuasive words of human wisdom, but in the showing of the spirit and of power. Give to him, O Lord, the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, so that he may make use of, not boast of, the power which Thou bestowest unto edification, not unto destruction. Whatsoever he shall bind upon earth, let it be bound likewise in heaven, and whatsoever he shall bind upon earth, let it be bound likewise in heaven, and whatsoever he shall loose upon earth, let it likewise be loosed in heaven. Whose sins he shall retain, let them be retained; and do Thou forgive the sins of whomsoever he shall forgive. Let him who shall curse him, himself be accursed; and let him who shall bless him, be filled with blessings. Let him be the faithful and prudent servant for Thee to set, O Lord, over thy household, so that he may give them food in due season, and prove himself

a perfect man. May he be untiring in his solicitude, fervent in spirit, May he detest pride, cherish humility and truth, and never desert it, overcome either by flattery or by fear. Let him not put light for darkness, nor darkness for light; let him not call evil good, nor good evil. May he be a debtor to the wise and to the foolish, so that he may gather fruit from the progress of all. Grant to him, O Lord, an episcopal chair for ruling Thy Church and the people committed to him. Be his authority, be his power, be his strength. Multiply upon him Thy blessing and Thy grace, so that by Thy gift he may be fitted for always obtaining Thy mercy, and by Thy grace may be faithful, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end."

Response: "Amen."

After this the Consecrator begins, and the choir takes up the Antiphon, which is followed by Psalm 132.

A LONG strip of cloth is then placed on the neck of the Bishop-elect and the Consecrator anoints the hands of the Bishop-elect in the form of a Cross, by drawing two lines with the thumb of his right hand, which has been dipped in chrism (holy oil). Afterwards, he anoints the entire palms of the Bishop-elect saying:

Consecrator: "May these hands be anointed with the sanctified oil and the chrism of sanctification, as Samuel anointed David to be King and Prophet; so may they be anointed and consecrated."

And making with his right hand the Sign of the Cross thrice over the hands of the Bishop-elect, he says:

Consecrator: "In the name of God the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, making the image of the Holy Cross of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who has redeemed us from death and led us to the Kingdom of Heaven. Hear us, O Loving, Almighty Father, Eternal God, and grant that we may obtain what we ask for, through the same Christ Our Lord."

Response: "Amen."

Consecrator: "May God and the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath himself willed to elevate thee to the dignity of the Episcopate, bestow thee with chrism and with the liquor of mystic ointment, and make thee fruitful with the richness of spiritual benediction. Whatsoever thou shalt bless, may it be blessed; and whatsoever thou shalt sanctify may it be sanctified; and may the imposition

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Bishop Casey's Consecration Day Dinner

Hotel Seneca Ballroom May 5 — 1:15 p.m.

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D. "Our Diocese"
Bishop of Rochester

HIS EMINENCE EDWARD CARDINAL MOONEY "Our Day"
Archbishop of Detroit

HIS EMINENCE FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN "Our Challenge"
Archbishop of New York

MOST REV. LAWRENCE B. CASEY "Response"
Auxiliary Bishop of Rochester