



Episcopal Consecration Ceremony Explained

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of this consecrated thumb or hand be profitable in all things unto salvation.

Response: "Amen."
After this, the Bishop-elect joins both hands, the right resting upon the left, places them within the cloth hanging from his neck. The Consecrator cleanses his thumb with bread crumbs and lemon juice and, laying aside his mitre, rises and blesses the pastoral staff, saying:

Consecrator: Let us pray. "O God, Who dost sustain human weakness, bless this staff; and in the clemency of Thy merciful kindness, effect inwardly in the character of this Thy servant, what it outwardly designates, through Christ our Lord."
Response: "Amen."

Then he sprinkles the pastoral staff with holy water, handing the staff to the Bishop-elect, who is kneeling before him, and says:

Consecrator: "Receive the staff of the Pastoral Office, so that in the cor-

rection of vices thou may best be lovingly severe, giving judgment without wrath, softening the minds of thy hearers whilst fostering virtues, not neglecting strictness of discipline through love of tranquillity."
Response: "Amen."

After which, laying aside his mitre, the Consecrator rises and blesses the episcopal ring saying:

Consecrator: Let us Pray: "O Lord, Creator and Preserver of the human race, Giver of spiritual grace, Bestower of eternal salvation, do Thou send forth Thy blessing upon this ring so that whosoever shall be adorned with this sign of holiest fidelity, it may avail him by the power of heavenly protection unto eternal life, through Christ our Lord."
Response: "Amen."

He then sprinkles the ring with holy water, and, sitting with his right on, places the ring on the ring finger of the right hand of the Bishop-elect, saying:

Consecrator: "Receive the ring, the symbol of fidelity, in order that, adorned with unspotted faith, thou mayest keep inviolably the Spouse of God, namely, His Holy Church."
Response: "Amen."

Then the Consecrator takes the book of the Gospels from the shoulders of the Consecrated, and, with the aid of the assistant Consecrators hands it, closed, to the one consecrated, who touches it without opening his hands, while the Consecrator says:

Consecrator: "Receive the gospel and go preach to the people committed to thee, for God is powerful to increase His grace in thee, He Who liveth and reigneth, world without end."
Response: "Amen."

FINALLY the Consecrator receives the Consecrated with the Kiss of Peace. The assistant Consecrators each do likewise, saying to the Consecrated:

"Peace be with you," and he answers to each: "And with thy spirit."

HERE ENDS THE RITE OF CONSECRATION.

Then the newly consecrated Bishop, returns to his chapel, where, while he is seated, his head is cleansed with bread crumbs and with a clean cloth. His hair is cleansed, and combed; he washes his hands. The Consecrator washes his hands at his faldstool. Then he goes to the throne and resumes the Mass. The newly consecrated bishop likewise resumes the Mass in his chapel.

Following the Gospel, the Credo and the Offertory of the Mass, the newly consecrated bishop, coming from his chapel, between the assistant Consecrators, kneels before the Consecrator at the throne and offers to him two lighted candles, two loaves of bread and two small cakes of wine, decorated with the coats of arms of the Consecrator and the newly consecrated.

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