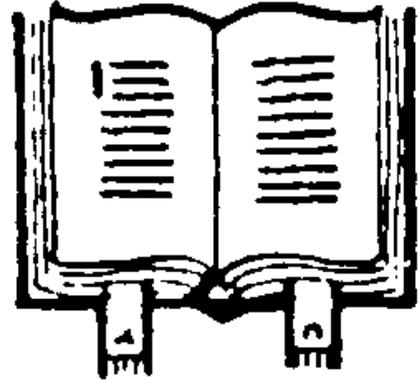


Lectors

(Cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal/GIRM)



Preparation

- All ministers at the Eucharist should arrive early to make the necessary preparations for their role in the Liturgy.
- The readers should review the readings for the Mass and adjust the microphone to the proper height before the celebration begins.
- The Lectionary is placed on the ambo before Mass. (128)

Overview

- If there are several readings, it is better to distribute them among a number of readers.
- It is not at all appropriate that ... the same reading be proclaimed by two readers, one reading after the other, unless it is the Passion of the Lord. (109)
- If the entrance hymn or communion song is not sung and the antiphons in the Missal are not said by the faithful, the reader may recite them at the appropriate time. (198)
- Wearing the appropriate vesture, the reader joins in the procession to the altar with the other ministers.
- The alb is the vestment common to all ministers, ordained and lay. (Cf. n.336)
- Acolytes, readers and other lay ministers may wear the alb or other vestment that is approved by the Conference of Bishops. (Cf. n. 339)
- If there is no deacon, the reader may carry the Book of the Gospels. In this case the reader walks in front of the priest; otherwise with the other ministers. (194)
- In the Eucharistic celebration, a reader has his own proper office and must exercise it, even though ordained ministers may be present. (99, Cf. also Introduction to the Lectionary [IL], 51)

Entrance Procession

The order of procession is:

- A server with smoking censer, if incense is used;
- Ministers (servers) carrying lighted candles, and between them an acolyte or server with the cross;
- The acolytes and other ministers;
- A reader who, if no deacon is present, may carry the Book of the Gospels, slightly elevated; or the deacon, who may carry the Book of the Gospels;
- The priest who is to celebrate the Mass. (120)

Approaching the Altar

- Upon reaching the altar, the readers make a profound bow to the altar with the other ministers.
- The reader carrying the Book of the Gospels approaches the altar, omits the reverence and places the Book of the Gospels upon it.
- Then, the readers take their places in the sanctuary [or body of the church] with the other ministers. (195, 49, 122)

Reverences

- There are two kinds of bows: (1) a bow of the head or slight bow, and (2) a bow of the body or profound bow. (Cf. n. 275)
- If there is a tabernacle in the sanctuary, the priest, deacon and other ministers genuflect when they approach the altar or leave the sanctuary, but not during the celebration of Mass itself.
- Ministers who carry the Book of the Gospels, the processional cross or candles bow their heads in place of a genuflection. (Cf. n. 274)

Liturgy of the Word

- After the Collect Prayer, all sit. The priest may, very briefly, introduce the faithful to the liturgy of the word.
- Then the reader goes to the ambo and ... proclaims the first reading... (128)
- The readings are always proclaimed from the ambo. (58)

Suggested Procedure

- When the opening prayer is finished, the reader remains standing as the congregation sits. There should never be any movement while the priest or assembly is praying. Then the reader proceeds to the ambo. A bow to the altar is made as the reader passes in front of it.
- Once the proper reading is located, the reader should take several deep, but silent breaths. This will give the congregation sufficient time to get "settled" and listen to the Word of God. When all is quiet, the reader may pick up the Lectionary or rest the hands comfortably on the ambo, and begin the reading.
- The reader begins with the introduction, "*A Reading from the Book of N.*" Nothing else is added. All references to chapter and verse, or summaries are omitted. There is no need to announce that this is the first reading.
- If the Book of the Gospels is to be used, then after the second reading, the reader removes the Lectionary from the ambo and places it on a shelf of the ambo, the credence table or another place of respect. [National Bulletin on Liturgy, 137, Summer 1994, pp. 115-125, no. 42]
- Moments of silence are observed after the first and second reading and after the homily, so that all may briefly meditate on what they have heard. (56, 128, 45)

Responsorial Psalm

- **The responsorial psalm is proclaimed from the ambo or another suitable place. (61, 309)**
- **If there is no psalmist, the reader may also proclaim the responsorial psalm after the first reading. (196)**

Profession of Faith/Prayer of the Faithful

- **All join in the recitation of the Creed.**
- **The priest, standing at the chair, leads the general intercessions.**
- **The people give expression to their prayer either by an invocation after each intention or by praying in silence.**
- **After the priest introduces the universal prayer, the deacon or another minister or the reader announces the intentions from the ambo or another suitable place. (71, 197)**
- **When announcing the intentions, the minister comes to the ambo before the priest's introduction and remains until the priest finishes the closing prayer.**

Liturgy of the Eucharist/Communion

- **The ministers of the Word, as members of the assembly, join in the celebration of the Eucharist.**
- **In order not to delay the communion of the faithful, it is recommended that only the extraordinary ministers of communion receive communion at the altar.**
- **If possible, the readers, servers and other ministers should join in the communion procession of the faithful.**

Concluding Rite

- **At the end of Mass the priest and deacon venerate the altar with a kiss**
- **Then with the lay ministers they make a profound bow, and all leave in the manner followed for the entrance procession. (169, 186)**