

# Excerpts from the General Instruction on the Roman Missal

16. The celebration of Mass, as the action of Christ and the People of God is the center of the whole Christian life for the Church both universal and local, as well as for each of the faithful individually. In it is found the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit. In it, moreover, during the course of the year, the mysteries of redemption are recalled so as in some way to be made present. Furthermore, the other sacred actions and all the activities of the Christian life are bound up with it, flow from it, and are ordered to it

## II. The Duties of the People of God

95. In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people whom God has made his own, a royal priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the spotless Victim not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him, and so that they may learn to offer themselves. They should, moreover, endeavor to make this clear by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration.

Thus, they are to shun any appearance of individualism or division, keeping before their eyes that they have only one Father in heaven and accordingly are all brothers and sisters to each other.

96. Indeed, they form one body, whether by hearing the word of God, or by joining in the prayers and the singing, or above all by the common offering of Sacrifice and by a common partaking at the Lord's Table. This unity is beautifully apparent from the gestures and postures observed in common by the faithful.

97. The faithful, moreover, should not refuse to serve the People of God gladly whenever they are asked to perform some particular ministry or function in the celebration.

## **General Instruction for the *Catholic Community of South Baltimore***

In order to create a more normative worship experience among the three parishes of the *Catholic Community of South Baltimore* the following is suggested. As with all things, adaptations will need to occur depending on circumstances: e.g. the lector is asked to also help serve; one physical ability etc. Common sense prevails.

### **Pre-Mass**

All liturgical ministers should sign in. The sign in sheet will be located in the back of each church in a binder. The binder will also include any particular instructions for the weekend.

- Holy Cross: cabinet near center of foyer
- St Mary table where celebrant vested.
- OLGC table in back near where celebrant vests.

### **Cantors**

- Make sure song number postings are correct.
- If there is something special regarding music please inform the celebrant.

### **Lectors**

- If not done so already please read through your reading and ask for clarification on anything that might be confusing. You can access the readings at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) then click on 'readings'. A calendar will appear choose the Sunday ( even if you are reading the Saturday vigil mass)
- Please make sure your partner is present as well or be ready to read both readings.
- If reading the Prayer of the Faithful please become familiar with it, and ask for clarification regarding names. The Prayers will be in back with the sign in sheet.
- Gather in the back of Church to prepare for processional.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

- After signing in may be seated

### **Processional**

- The processional will begin in the back of Church and come down the center aisle. Cross bearer and altar servers lead in followed by the Book of the Gospels, followed by lectors, followed by Celebrant.
- All, except the Book of the Gospels line up in front of altar to reverence together.
- The Book of the Gospels goes immediately onto altar. Place the book in the center of altar, face down or standing upright.
- After all reverence the altar (genuflect at HC, bow at SM and OLGC) all go to their respective places.
  - Priest to his chair
  - Altar servers to their chairs
  - Lectors to their pew

## Liturgy of the Word

55. The main part of the Liturgy of the Word is made up of the readings from Sacred Scripture together with the chants occurring between them. The homily, Profession of Faith, and Prayer of the Faithful, however, develop and conclude this part of the Mass (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*).

As one comes forward to proclaim the readings and the responsorial psalm one should be mindful of the microphone. Microphones are there to help with volume. The lector and cantor need to speak/sing directly into the microphone and speak as if there is not a microphone. When this is done properly there should be no problems with hearing.

### Lector

- After the opening prayer the first lector comes forward, bows to the altar, proceeds to the ambo to **proclaim** the first reading.
  - When finished, the first lector goes back to seat in congregation.
  - If only one lector, the lector may stay in the sanctuary until after second reading.
- The second lector will proceed in same manner as the first lector once the psalm is complete.

### Cantor

- The Cantor's primary focus for the Liturgy of the Word is to **proclaim** the responsorial psalm in song. This should be sung at the Ambo.
- The *Alleluia* should be sung at the cantor's stand.

### Intercessions

- If there is a deacon serving he will read the intercessions. At all other times it will be one of the lectors.

## Preparation of the Altar

73. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist the gifts, which will become Christ's Body and Blood, are brought to the altar (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*).

- Once the collection has been taken and the money collected in the back, the ushers are to place and seal all the collections in the *SecurPac Bank Bag* that is labeled for that Mass and collection as soon as the collection is complete. This is to be done in the back of the church.
- The collection is to be brought forward to the altar (in the sealed bag) and placed where the collection is currently placed. The bag may be placed in another bag for appearance sake and then placed in a basket for the offertory.
- All *SecurPac Bank Bags* that contain money are to be locked in the Church safe after every mass.
- The money should be first in procession. The ushers will begin using security bags for the collection.
- The gifts of bread and wine should come after the money. This signifies the importance of the bread and wine over money.
- There is no need to bring up the water. The water can be placed on the credence table prior to the beginning of mass.
- All 3 gifts should be handed to the presider who receives them on behalf of the community. The offering should remain in the sanctuary.
- Please choose various people each week to process the gifts.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

72. At the Last Supper Christ instituted the Paschal Sacrifice and banquet by which the Sacrifice of the Cross is continuously made present in the Church whenever the priest, representing Christ the Lord, carries out what the Lord himself did and handed over to his disciples to be done in his memory (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*).

- There will be no changes to how the Eucharistic Prayer is done at this time.

## **Communion Rite**

85. It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the instances when it is permitted, they partake of the chalice (cf. below, no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion will stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*).

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

- After the sign of Peace the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should come forward to assist with the distribution of communion. If there is a EM assigned to distribute the bread, that EM should go to the Tabernacle and bring the extra Ciboria to the altar.
- Please stand behind or as near to the altar as possible. This is to assist the priest in distributing communion as quickly and orderly as possible to the Altar Servers, Cantor, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.
- Once the priest or deacon has given the cup or ciboria to the EM they may proceed to their place to distribute communion.
- Once the distribution of communion is completed the EM should take their cups to the credence table, consume what is left in the cup, and then return to their seats.
- If an EM has distributed the Body of Christ they should follow the priest to the tabernacle to repose the Blessed Sacrament. After the Blessed Sacrament is secure in the tabernacle the Eucharistic Ministers may return to their seat.

## **Recessional**

- The recessional consists of the Altar Servers, Deacon/acolyte and Priest.
- The Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist remain in their pews.
- Once the closing hymn has begun the priest will sing a verse or two and then proceed to reverence the altar and then go the front of the altar to bow or genuflect before recessing.

## **Post-Mass**

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

- At the conclusion of the closing hymn the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist may return to the sanctuary and purify and wash the vessels in the sacristy.

### **Lectors**

- It will be greatly appreciated if the lectors of the mass would be in the back to hand out bulletins and greet people as they leave.