

Ecumenical Apostolic Church Diocese



THE EXAMINATION & CONSECRATION OF A PRIEST / BISHOP

THE EXAMINATION

All are seated except the **Candidate**, whom stands before the **Bishop**.

The **Bishop** addresses the **Candidate** as follows:

Candidate Name:

My brother, the Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.

All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Lord and Savior, and to share in the renewing of his world.

Now you are called to work as a Pastor, **Priest/ Bishop**, and Teacher, together with your bishop and fellow presbyters, and to take your share in the councils of the Church.

As a **Priest/ Bishop**, it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in

accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you.

In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

(Candidate name), do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this office.

Answer: I believe I am so called.

Bishop: Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your Bishop?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

Answer: I Shall.

Bishop: Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and

with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family, or household, or community in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: Will you persevere in prayer, both in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, offering all your labors to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?

Answer: I Shall

Bishop: May the Lord who has given you the will to do these things give you the grace and power to perform them.

Candidate Answer: Philippians 4:13:

I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.

Bishop: All things are Possible through Christ and Nothing is Impossible with God. Amen

The **People** in a loud voice said: **AMEN!**

Candidate then lays face down with arms spread wide in giving homage to the Heavenly Father.

Bishop says: Now let us all bow our heads in silent prayer.

Bishop Prayer: We now petition you O' Lord. In our silence, we petition in bringing our brother before you, before your examination. As your Prophet Samuel, was directed by you, In your choice of naming and anointing your people and your Kings and priest, We humbly ask for

your presence your leading as we wait in silence. Your word declares, do not be hasty in laying on of hands, So we now wait upon you, in silence, in obedience and in observance of your word. Holy Spirit, We ask for your presence, your examination of this brother and your approval and anointing of this priest petitioning you for office of bishop, a shepherd of your flock. We ask this In the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

The Ordination of the **Priest/Bishop**
Office of a **Bishop** (Read if Consecration of a Bishop)

Reading: **1 Timothy 3:1-7**

3:1: This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

3:2: A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of

good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3:3: Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

3:4: One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

3:5: (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

3:6: Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

3:7: Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

All now stand:

The **Bishop** then says this Prayer of Ordination:

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brethren, and the head of the Church.

We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and, having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body. Amen

Lines of Apostolic Succession Ordination is
Past Down, By your hands Lord
Candidate then stands and faces Bishop

Bishop: Will anyone Stand in the presence of the Saints, at this time, and bring publicly a declaration stating why

this man should not be anointed to the office of Bishop?

If So, Please stand and declare your cause.

Bishop: Being that there is no cause presented, **candidate** do you have anything to declare publicly?

Candidate Reading: I declare before the people of God:

Luke: 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Acts 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

The **Candidate** then kneels in front of the **Bishop**

Here the **Bishop** lays hands upon the head of the **Candidate**,

At the same time the **Bishop** prays:

Therefore, Father through Jesus Christ your Son, give your Holy Spirit to

(**Candidate Name**); fill him with grace and power, and make him a **Priest/Bishop** in your Church.

May (**Candidate Name**) exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; Offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make (**Candidate Name**) a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise counselor. Grant that to him in all things may he serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,

whom with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever.
Amen

The **People** in a loud voice said: **AMEN!**

Bishop Reading:

Romans 1:5-6 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 4:6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The **Bishop** says: I light this candle to shine the light of Jesus Christ and his word. Let your light shine before men of your work of the Father. The light of Jesus

Christ forever shine upon you and bless you in your ministry. Amen

Bishop then takes the bible and in symbolic of this

The **Bishop** then touches each shoulder of the **Candidate** with the Holy Bible and says:

May the living word rest upon your shoulders and guide you in your ministry as a **Priest/Bishop**, May the Holy Spirit be with you.

The **Bishop** then holds the bible over the head of the Candidate and says: May the Lord give you wisdom and guidance in preaching the living word.

The **Candidate** is now vested according to the order of priests with a stole over both shoulders then **Bishop** says:

May this stole around your neck, hold the truth within you that you wear it with

honor as one of Christ Apostles within the priesthood.

The **Bishop** Blesses the Holy Bible then touches each shoulder of the **Candidate** and say:

Receive this Bible as a sign of the authority given you to preach the Word of God and to administer his holy Sacraments.

Do not forget the trust committed to you as a **Priest/ Bishop** of the Church of God.

The **Bishop** bestows a Pictorial Cross to the **Newly Ordained Priest/ Bishop** and say:

Wear this Cross, with honor to Jesus Christ as a sign of bearing your own cross and walking in his footsteps and a sign of your Christian faith.

The **Bishop** anoints the **Newly Ordained Priest/ Bishop** with oil on forehead with (Sign of the cross) May the Lord guide you in wisdom and in peace.

Both palms of the hands (rub in oil) May Jesus give you the healing power of faith. Amen.

Presentation of the mitre:

Bishop *to new bishop*, place the mitre upon his head and say: May this mitre serve as both a reminder and symbol of your service to the people, and Christ being the head of the Church, a symbol of authority. Protect his Honor and his people and in so doing, wear it with honor as a head of the church, and in demonstration to your given authority.

Presentation of the Crozier Staff:

May this Bishop staff remind you of the responsibilities in being an example of our Good shepherd, Christ Jesus, his ministry, his mission, his caring, protection, guidance, most importantly dedication,

and the lesson of using the staff in a proper manner, notice the curved end of the staff, and in parallel, the example laid down in scripture, leaving the 99, the flock, to go after the 1 lost sheep to rescue, pulling out the sheep that is lost, missing, in danger, and where only this designed feature of the staff can gently rescue the sheep from a seemingly impossible place. May you in fullness, possess the ability to utilize this staff, this instrument for the job in which you are about to encounter and may this staff always remind you of the power and authority that Moses received through the direction of God and in the power of deliverance and in healing for Gods children, his presence, his children, now an assignment as your people. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The **People** in a loud voice said: **AMEN!**