

## INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PARISH PRIEST (PASTOR) INTO HIS PARISH BY AN AUXILIARY BISHOP

*Adapted from Ceremonial of Bishops (#1185-1198)  
and the Book of Blessings (Appendix 1)*

*The Mass of the Sunday is celebrated.*

### **Handing over the Keys of the Parish Church to the New Pastor**

*At the threshold of the church, the Auxiliary Bishop hands over the keys of the parish church to the new pastor. He may exhort him in these or similar words.*

*Bishop:*

In the name of Archbishop Chaput,

Father/Monsignor **N.**, I entrust to you this parish church.

Dedicated under the title of **N.**,

this church is above all a house of prayer,

a temple of worship, a home in which the faithful

are nourished by the Word of God

and the Sacraments of the Church.

It is the dwelling place of God on earth,

a temple built of living stones,

founded on the Apostles

with Jesus Christ as its corner stone.

It is here that, through the waters of Baptism,

God's people die to sin and live again

through grace as adopted children of God.

Here they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

and gather around the altar  
to celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb  
being fed and nourished by Christ's Body and Blood.

Here they celebrate the sacraments  
of healing and reconciliation  
so that they might experience the peace  
which only Christ can give them.

It is here that men and women  
are united in marriage  
to be a sign of the love Christ has for His Church.

It is here that those who have died  
are brought to their loved ones to be  
commended to the loving mercy of God.

Father/Monsignor N., may you always  
serve the faithful of St. N. Parish  
with zeal, fidelity and sincere devotion  
so that all people may come to know Jesus Christ  
our only true High Priest and Shepherd.

*Or:*

*Bishop*

In the name of Archbishop Chaput,

Father/Monsignor N., I entrust you this parish church

Dedicated under the title of **N.**,  
 this Church is above all a house of prayer,  
 a temple of worship, a home in which the faithful  
 are nourished by the Word of God  
 and the Sacraments of the Church.

It is the dwelling place of God on earth,  
 a temple built of living stones,  
 founded on the Apostles  
 with Jesus Christ as its corner stone.

Father/Monsignor **N.**, may you always  
 serve the faithful of St. **N.** Parish  
 with zeal, fidelity and sincere devotion  
 so that all people may come to know Jesus Christ  
 our only true High Priest and Shepherd.

*The Entrance Procession into the parish church follows immediately and Mass begins  
 in the usual way.*

## **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

*Everything is as usual.*

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Everything is as usual until after the homily.*

*The Deacon or, in his absence, one of the concelebrating priests proclaims the Gospel.*

**Homily**

*All sit.*

## **Reading of the Decree by the Dean**

*In the absence of the Dean, another priest is selected beforehand to read the decree.*

## **Renewal of Promises**

*The pastor alone stands before the Bishop for the renewal of promises.*

*Bishop:*

My dear brother, in the presence of the people whom you are about to receive into your care, I ask you to renew the promises you made at your ordination as a Priest.

Do you resolve, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discharge without fail the office of Priesthood in the presbyteral rank, as a worthy fellow worker with the Order of Bishops in caring for the Lord's flock?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you resolve to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you resolve to celebrate faithfully and reverently, in accord with the Church's tradition, the mysteries of Christ, especially the Sacrifice of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for the glory of God and the sanctification of the Christian people?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you resolve to implore with us God's mercy upon the people entrusted in your care by observing the command to pray without ceasing?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you resolve to be united more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, who offered himself for us to the Father as a pure Sacrifice, and with him to consecrate yourself to God for the salvation of all?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

Do you promise respect and obedience to your Ordinary?

*Pastor:*

I do.

*Bishop:*

May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.

**Profession of Faith**

*All stand.*

*Bishop:*

Remember, my brother N., always be a loving father,  
a gentle shepherd, and a wise teacher of your people, so that you  
may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do.

I now ask you as a teacher of that faith to lead your people in the  
Profession of Faith.

*The new pastor moves to the altar to lead the assembly in the Profession of Faith.*

**Presentation of the Pastor and  
Greeting by Representatives of the Parish**

*The pastor returns to his place and stands.*

*Bishop:*

My dear friends,

I now commend Father/Monsignor N., to you as your pastor.

At this time I ask the (other clergy and) representatives of this parish community to come forward on behalf of all to greet Father/Monsignor N.

*The pastor greets the (other clergy and) representatives of the parish community (parochial staff, education staff, members of councils, etc...)*

**Universal Prayer**

*A petition is included for the Archbishop and the new pastor.*

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST AND CONCLUDING RITES**

*After the Prayer after Communion, the pastor may speak briefly. The Mass concludes in the usual manner.*

*(Revised September 30, 2016)*