INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PARISH PRIEST (PASTOR) INTO HIS PARISH BY THE ARCHBISHOP

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

The Mass of the Sunday is celebrated.

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

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

Archbishop:
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 by 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:

Archbishop:
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.

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. After having been kissed by the Archbishop, the Book of the Gospels *is placed upon the altar for the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity.*

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 Archbishop for the renewal of promises.

Archbishop:
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.

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

Pastor:
I do.

Archbishop:
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.

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

Pastor:
I do.

Archbishop:
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.

Archbishop:
Do you promise respect and obedience to me and to my successors?

Pastor:
I do.

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

Profession of Faith *All stand.*

Archbishop:
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. At the conclusion of the Profession of Faith, he continues:

With firm faith I also believe everything contained in God's Word,
written or handed down in Tradition
and proposed by the Church,
whether in solemn judgment or in ordinary and universal magisterium,
as divinely revealed and calling for faith.

I also firmly accept and hold each and everything
that is proposed by the Church definitively
regarding teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect
to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff
or the College of Bishops enunciates
when they exercise the authentic Magisterium
even if they proclaim those teachings in an act
that is not definitive.

Oath of Fidelity *All sit.*

The pastor places his hands on the Book of the Gospels *and recites the* Oath of Fidelity.

I, Reverend/Reverend Monsignor N., on assuming the Office of Pastor, of St. N. Parish, promise that I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church both in the words I speak and in the way I act.

With great care and fidelity I shall carry out the responsibilities by which I am bound in relation both to the universal Church and to the particular Church in which I am called to exercise my service according to the requirements of the law.

In carrying out my charge, which is committed to me by the Church, I shall preserve the Deposit of Faith in its entirety, hand it on faithfully and make it shine forth. As a result, whatsoever teachings are contrary to it, I shall shun.

I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the whole Church and shall look after the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the *Code of Canon Law*.

With Christian obedience I shall associate myself with what is expressed by the Bishops as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or established by them as the Church's rulers. And I shall faithfully assist diocesan bishops so that all apostolic activity, to be exercised by the mandate and in the name of the Church, is carried out in the communion of the same Church.

May God help me in this way and the holy Gospels of God which I touch with my hands.

After this, the deacon [or, in his absence, an altar server] removes the Book of the Gospels *from the altar to an appropriate place.*

Presentation of the Pastor and
Greeting by Representatives of the Parish

The pastor returns to his place and stands.

Archbishop:
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.*

Any documents are signed after Mass in the Rectory at a convenient time.