

Ministers at Mass

If we are to understand the significance of these ministries and roles, we must begin with Baptism, for only one who through Baptism has been given a share in the priesthood of Christ is capable of participating in the public worship which is the liturgy of the Church (The Mass). In fact, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of the Second Vatican Council tells us that participation in the liturgy is the **right** and **duty** of all the baptized. (www.usccb.org)

Match each minister to the description of their role at Mass.

1. Deacon

2. Extraordinary
Minister of Holy
Communion

3. Altar Server

4. Usher

5. Cantor

6. Lector

7. Sacristan

8. Presider/
Celebrant

- A. Lay minister who leads the congregation in song at various points in the Mass. A cantor may sing, for example, the opening antiphon of the responsorial psalm between the first and second reading, invite the congregation to repeat it, and then sing the verses of the psalm and invite the congregation to repeat the antiphon between the verses. The cantor normally initiates the alleluia before the proclamation of the Gospel.
- B. Priest or Bishop who acts in the liturgy in the very person of Christ, on behalf of his people, pronouncing the most sacred prayers of our faith, presiding over the celebration of the sacred mysteries, explaining God's Word and feeding God's people on the body and blood of Christ.
- C. Ordained, married or unmarried man who, in the celebration of the Mass, proclaims the Gospel and assists the bishop/priest in exercising their sacred duties.
- D. Lay minister who carries the cross, the processional candles, holds the book for the priest celebrant when he is not at the altar, carries the incense and censer, presents the bread, wine, and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts or assists him when he receives the gifts from the people, washes the hands of the priest, and assists the priest celebrant and deacon as necessary.
- E. Lay minister who is called forth when there are not sufficient ordinary ministers (deacon, priest or bishop) to distribute Holy Communion.
- F. Lay ministers who are entrusted with reading the first reading in daily Mass or the first and second readings at Sunday Masses or other major feasts. Lectors are never allowed to proclaim the Gospel or preach the homily; that is entrusted only to a deacon, priest or bishop.
- G. Lay ministers who are also referred to in some parishes as *greeters* or *welcomers*, they greet the worshipers as they enter the church and may assist them in finding a seat, especially at Masses where the size of the congregation nears or exceeds the seating capacity of the church.
- H. A lay person who, always under the general direction of the clergy, undertakes the overall preparation of liturgical celebrations, carefully arranging the liturgical books, the vestments and the other things necessary in the celebration of the Mass.