

THE ORDER OF ORDINATION OF THE HEGUMEN

The chosen priest must be selected from the clergy. He wears his black robe and kneels before the Bishop who stands before the altar. The Bishop then prays the thanksgiving prayer and raises incense, while the people respond, saying:

Lord Have Mercy

O Lord, God of powers, who allowed us to have a portion in this service, who searched the hearts and granted understanding to mankind, hear us through Your plenteous mercy and purify us from every blemish of the flesh and the spirit. Remove the cloud of our sins and the smoke of our faults. Fill us with Your divine power and with the grace of Your Only Begotten Son and with the acts of the Holy Spirit. May we be worthy of the ministry of this new covenant and the honor of carrying Your holy Name and serving the Holy mysteries of Your priesthood.

Do not allow us to participate in transgressions, but rather blot out our sins and grant us, O Master, to be faultless, and give to us true wisdom to speak what is good when we approach your Holy altar.

Accept unto You the full hegemony that is for Your servant (Name) who stands here awaiting Your heavenly gifts, for You are good and plenteous in mercy toward all those who have called upon Your Holy Name.

For You are all powerful along with Your Only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages, Amen.

Lord Have Mercy (three times).

The Bishop looks East and Prays:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; which perfects our insufficiency through the good will of God the Father and the Holy Spirit descend on on (Name), who enters with fear and reverence to the altar, lifting his heart unto You, O God who dwell in heaven while awaiting Your heavenly gift so he may be elevated from the rank of presbyter to the rank of hegumen in the church of (Name) in the city (Name). Let us all ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation responds saying: Amen (three times).

The Bishop looks toward the East and prays:

Yes O Lord, make him worthy for the call of the hegemony, through Your goodness. Oh Philanthropic One, may he deserve Your Holy Name, worship You and Serve Your Holy altar. Having mere before You, for all mercy and compassion are existent in you, Oh God. and unto you we offer glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. now and forever an unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Bishop looks toward the West, placing his hands on the head of the ordained, and praying silently:

O Master Lord, God the Pantocrator, Father of our Lord. God and Savior Jesus Christ, who knows everything before it happen You have chosen Your servant (Name) so he may become a father and guide to Your servants, these who are living here in the place of Your Holy Name, For this we ask and entreat You, O Philanthropic one, to look upon him and bless him, to purify him through the descent of wisdom and through Your Holy Spirit, so that he may be blameless day and night

Grant him, O Master a generous Spirit (Psalm 50:12), meekness, love, patience and goodness, so that he may please You with all good deeds. Make him an example before those whom he disciples' and make sure he practices what he preaches. Allow him to teach Your commandments and to be concerned with the purity, love and holiness of your people that they may be presented blameless unto Christ, the heavenly Groom. And may his good works be an acceptable and pure sacrifice, thus fulfilling the scripture: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify Your father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

The Bishop looks towards the alter in the East and prays:

Peace be with you all.

Look unto us and our service, purify us from all pollution. Send Your grace from heaven upon this your servant, so he may be worthy through Your life, to perfect his priesthood without blame. May he

gain Your mercy along with all those who have pleased You from the beginning of time.

And unto You we offer honor and worship, from all your people, O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Bishop looks toward the West and draws the sign of the cross on the forehead of the ordained with his thumb, and proclaiming:

WE CALL (NAME) HEGUMEN IN THE HOLY CHURCH OF GOD AMEN.

Archdeacon says:

(Name) hegumen on the Holy altar of the Holy catholic and apostolic he Church of God in the city of (...).

The Bishop draws the sign of the cross on the forehead of the ordained saying:

(Name) hegumen on the Orthodox in the Holy altar which we mentioned, in the city of (...). In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Peace and edification unto the Holy Church of God. Amen.

The Bishop looks toward the East and prays:

We thank You O Master the Pantocrator, for every condition and in every condition. We bless and glorify Your Holy Name, for you did great things, and poured out your talents upon Your servant. We ask and entreat You, O Master, to hear us through Your great mercy and be pleased with the ordination of Your servant as hegumen, by the descent of Your Holy Spirit upon him. We ask and pray to You O Master to hear us and verify the call of this archpriest in purity, grace and goodness.

Permit us along with him to receive the rewards of the wise steward that which all those who have fulfilled Your will from the beginning and who wait the coming of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The priest then kisses the altar, the bishop and the other priests. They resume the Divine Liturgy.

The ordained then partakes of the holies from the bishop then his commandment is read to him:

Know this O son, as you have been entrusted with the rank of hegemony which comes from the Lord. Be of great interest in your teaching and demonstrate it by your good works. Teach your people well for you will give an account to God according to the apostolic teachings. Watch for the souls of your people and guide them by your example even more than by the preaching of good words.

Approach the sinner, as the apostolic rules says, in meekness and friendship. Suffer with them when they hurt, for they are your limbs. Be alert and cautious not to allow the example of the fox who harms the sheep. Defend the Word in truth and perfect the scriptures that say:

“We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves” (Romans 15:1).

If it is the will of God, we too desire to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21)