

# Altar Minister Supplemental Training

## When a Bishop Celebrates Eucharist

- Two extra Altar Ministers are required to assist with the crosier and mitre.
- They walk behind the Bishop, give a profound bow and take their seat close enough to be available when needed to assist with the Bishop's crosier and mitre.

### Crosier

As a rule, the Bishop holds the pastoral staff (crosier) when he:

- walks in procession
- listens to the Gospel reading
- gives the Homily
- bestows a blessing on people..

### Mitre

As a rule, the bishop wears the mitre when he:

- is seated
- gives the Homily
- greets the people, addresses them or gives them the invitation to pray
- gives a solemn blessing
- confers a Sacrament
- walks in a procession.



## When a Bishop Celebrates Eucharist

The following are the times that the Altar Minister needs to be prepared to assist the Bishop:

- Entrance Procession.
- Incensing of the altar the Bishop hands the crosier to the Altar Minister.
- After incensing the altar: Receives crosier to walk back to presider's chair.
- Presiders Chair: mitre and crosier removed at the chair.
- After the Introductory Rites and before the First Reading: the Bishop receives the mitre.
- When the Bishop stands for the Gospel Acclamation (after he puts incense in the thurible): the mitre is removed, and the crosier given to the Bishop.
- During the Homily: mitre and crosier are used.
- Profession of Faith: mitre and crosier are removed.
- After the Prayer over the Gifts: the Bishop removes the skull cap and either places it on the altar or hands it to an Altar Minister.
- After Holy Communion: the Bishop places the skull cap on his head.
- Final Blessing and Recessional Procession: mitre and crosier are used.

When the Altar Ministers are seated but not holding mitre or crosier they place their hands on their knees.

Altar Ministers need to be close to the Bishop so that the mitre and crosier are always ready.