

GUIDELINES FOR CONCELEBRATION

I. General Norms:

- A. The General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM), nn. 153 - 208 and other sections, should be consulted for the typical form of concelebration. These guidelines suggest some modifications to the Instruction in light of pastoral circumstances.
- B. It is for the Bishop to regulate the discipline of concelebration in the diocese (GIRM 155)

II. Occasions for Concelebration:

- A. When the Bishop is celebrant of the liturgy, it is most fitting that presbyters concelebrate (see GIRM 59, 157).
- B. On other occasions, concelebration may be appropriate. The decision should be left to those responsible for planning the particular celebration. It should be clear to presbyters who attend whether or not they are invited to concelebrate.

III. Place and functions of concelebrants:

- A. The size and configuration of the church and the sanctuary and the number of those who will concelebrate must be taken into account in planning the celebration. A presbyterium may be designated in a transept or adjacent to the sanctuary for the concelebrants. Due to their number or because of the size of the sanctuary, it may be more suitable for the concelebrants to remain in the presbyterium throughout the liturgy.
If the concelebrants assemble in the sanctuary for the Eucharistic prayer, they are not to stand too close to the altar or to impede the celebrant and deacon (GIRM 167).
Concelebrants should never assume a position in the front pews of the nave or wherever they might impede the view of the assembly.
- B. By their presence, words and actions, the concelebrants must not compete with the celebrant for prominence in the assembly. Thus, for instance, they are to speak the common parts of the Eucharistic Prayer in a low voice so that "the principal celebrant's voice stands out clearly" (GIRM 170). It is not necessary for other parts of the Prayer to be apportioned to concelebrants.
- C. The concelebrants, vested in alb and stole of the color of the feast, may walk in the entrance procession (GIRM 162 - 163) or, if this is not suitable in the mind of local planners, gather in the presbyterium beforehand.
- D. Concelebrants do not assume the proper ministries of other ministers (e.g. deacons, acolytes, reader, cantor, etc., GIRM 160) when they are present. If a deacon cannot be present, a concelebrant should be designated to proclaim the Gospel (GIRM 34) and one may assist the celebrant at the chair and altar. Announcing the general intercessions is **not** a presidential function, but should be done by the deacon or reader.
- E. For Holy Communion, if the concelebrants are gathered in the sanctuary, they may receive Communion as described in GIRM 197, 199 and 205 (for the Blood of Christ). When the concelebrants remain in the presbyterium, two or three designated deacons or concelebrants may present the ciborium/paten and chalices in the presbyterium.
- F. The ordinary minister of Holy Communion is the Bishop, priest or deacon. When sufficient ordinary ministers are not available or are unable to function, special ministers of Communion may fulfill this function. Those who plan the celebration must determine if it will cause undue difficulty to arrange for ordinary ministers to distribute Communion. Uncertainty about priests who will be present and their lack of familiarity with the worship space may make it more suitable for special ministers to assume this function.