



I STATEMENT FROM GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

Saint Paul instructed the assembled community to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God (Romans 15:7). It will normally be appropriate for those commonly referred to as ushers to exercise this ministry of welcome by greeting people at the door, making sure they are provided with all the necessary books and aids, and helping them find their places. The people are assembling to share in a supper as brothers and sisters. They will appreciate this more readily if they are made welcome by representatives of the community and acknowledged informally by their neighbors.

- * In small and stable communities, a formal ministry of welcome may not be needed. But in larger assemblies with a more shifting attendance, special arrangements are necessary so that visitors and those unfamiliar with the community and its worship may be put at ease and drawn into the celebration.
- * Ushers also help when, at any time during the celebration, members of the assembly become ill or otherwise need assistance.
- * In some places ushers assist with the collection and with processions.

II REQUIREMENTS

Those who normally fulfill the ministry of hospitality should be fully initiated, active members of the community. They should be of sufficient age and temperament to undertake this ministry with grace, respect and discretion. Ministries of hospitality should be seen, experienced, and witnessed as a ministry of care to the assembly.

The proper place for the seating of ministers of hospitality is within the assembly. First in prayer, they should be attentive to the needs of the assembly, seated discreetly near the doors and at other places within the assembly.

Those who serve in the various ministries of hospitality should be invited to do so because of their genuine warmth and affection for God's people.

III OPERATING PROCEDURE

A. Before the start of the liturgy

Greeters might be present at the doors of the church to welcome members of the community, assist visitors, distribute worship aids and direct those who are in need to particular community services which are available (devices for the hearing impaired, restrooms, placement of seating for those with physical disabilities, nursery facilities, etc.).



Norms for Ministries of Hospitality

Ushers might be present to assist those who need special seating.

B. During the liturgy

1. Participate in worship with the community
2. Be of assistance to those with physical disabilities
3. Be aware of the place where first aid supplies and an emergency telephone are located
4. Be attentive to the assembly for any serious or disturbing circumstances
5. Assist with the collection
6. Accompany those who will bring forward the gifts
7. Direct the communion procession

C. Following the conclusion of the liturgy

1. Distribute parish bulletins and any other materials
2. Be available in case any parishioners are having any problems in leaving the church
3. Be of service if there is a mechanical failure in automobiles
4. Be of assistance in preparing the worship space for the next assembly of the faithful

IV INSTALLATION OF MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

The Book of Blessings, chapter 62, provides an Order for the Blessing of Altar Servers, Sacristans, Musicians and Ushers. Ministers of hospitality should be commissioned for a specified period of time, perhaps two years. This will allow both the minister and the parish community to benefit from this ministry.

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