THE

BISHOP'S

SERVICE

BOOK

PART III

1994/1997/2002/2005
USDAOC, ed.

ORDAÏNÏNG SUBDEACONS

The subdeacons lead the candidate(s) to receive the laying-on-of-hands, vested in stikhar [dalmatic], to the centre of the Temple. The candidate(s) make(s) three prostrations towards the Holy Table ; and turning around, they make three bows to the bishop, who is at the throne in the nave. And he (they) come(s) to the bishop, and bow(s) his (their) head(s).

[*However, if the ordination follows directly on tonsuring, this much is omitted, and we begin, as follows :*]

If there be more than one candidate, then each candidate is vested, and ordained, one at a time. The subdeacons bring the Orar(s) to the bishop. ***The bishop blesses*** *it/them cross-wise with his hand. The candidate kisses the Orar, and the bishop's hand, and he is girded with the Orar by the subdeacons. The orar is so placed that it makes a belt at the waist in the front, and, coming forward over the shoulders, it is crossed over the chest, and tucked into the belt.*

The bishop blesses him *on the head, three times, and he lays his hand on the head of the candidate. Then the Protodeacon says :*

Protodeacon : Let us pray to the Lord.

Response : Lord, have mercy.

The bishop prays :

O LORD OUR GOD, THROUGH THE ONE AND THE SAME HOLY SPÏRÏT, DÏSTRÏBUTÏNG GÏFTS OF GRACE TO EACH ONE OF THOSE WHOM YOU HAVE CHOSEN, YOU HAVE GÏVEN VARÏOUS ORDERS TO YOUR CHURCH. YOU HAVE APPOÏNTED DEGREES OF MÏNÏSTRY ÏN ÏT, FOR THE SERVÏCE OF YOUR HOLY, SPOTLESS MYSTERÏES. THROUGH YOUR ÏNEFFABLE FOREKNOWLEDGE, YOU HAVE ORDAÏNED THÏS, YOUR SERVANT, TO BE WORTHY TO SERVE ÏN YOUR HOLY CHURCH. O LORD, THE SAME LORD, PRESERVE HÏM UNCONDEMNED ÏN ALL

THINGS. GRANT THAT HE MAY LOVE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR HOUSE, AND STAND BEFORE THE DOORS OF YOUR HOLY TEMPLE, AND LIGHT LAMPS IN THE TENT OF YOUR GLORY. PLANT HIM IN YOUR HOLY CHURCH LIKE A FRUITFUL OLIVE TREE, WHICH BRINGS FORTH THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. MAKE HIM YOUR PERFECT SERVANT IN THE TIME OF YOUR COMING, THAT HE MAY RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THOSE WHO ARE WELL-PLEASING IN YOUR SIGHT ;
FOR YOURS ARE THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW, AND EVER, AND UNTO THE AGES OF AGES.
Response : Amen.

Then the subdeacons give the one ordained a ewer and a basin, and they drape a towel over his shoulders [*or, in Greek practice, the bishop receives the towel, and places it over the left shoulder of the new subdeacon, and it is he that gives the subdeacon the basin and ewer*]. *The one ordained pours water on the bishop's hands three times.*

The bishop *washes his hands, after first blessing it, and saying :*
O LORD OUR GOD, YOU SANCTIFIED THE STREAMS OF JORDAN BY YOUR SAVING APPEARANCE. NOW, ALSO, SEND DOWN THE GRACE OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, AND BLESS THIS WATER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF

YOUR PEOPLE ; FOR YOU ARE BLESSED UNTO THE AGES OF AGES.

Then the one ordained, and the other subdeacons, kiss the bishop's hand, and they go and stand at the appointed place, perhaps to the right side of the Royal Doors, or elsewhere before the Iconostasis.

The one ordained stays in his appointed place, holding the ewer basin and towel, until the Great Entrance. He says quietly the Trisagion Prayers, the Creed, Lord have mercy, any other prayers, and also the following :

> O God, pardon, remit, forgive our transgressions, both voluntary, and involuntary, of word or of deed, of knowledge or of ignorance, of the day, or of the night, of the mind, or of the intentions ; forgive us all, for You are good, and the Lover of Man.

At the Great Entrance, the one ordained is led before the bishop at the Royal Doors, ***and the bishop*** *washes his hands, saying the same prayer. They kiss his hand, and they all enter the Altar.*

The one ordained walks behind all the clergy during the Great Entrance.

After the clergy enter the Altar, the one ordained bows to the bishop, and he brings the blessed water to the right and the left choirs, and to the people in the Temple. Then they all bless themselves with this water.

Then, the new subdeacon is led into the Altar, and the Holy Water is poured into the Piscina. The new subdeacon is brought before the Royal Doors, and he stands in the appointed place.

*After the bishop's exclamation "*And the mercies of our great God …,*" the subdeacons lead the new subdeacon into the Altar. Receiving the bishop's blessing, he goes and stands with the other subdeacons.*

[THE END OF ORDAINING SUBDEACONS]