



THE SACRAMENTS OF CHURCH

4

THE EUCHARIST



By  
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THE SACRAMENTS OF CHURCH



**ITS NAMES:**

- ☑ Sacrament of Holy Communion
- ☑ Sacrament of Thanksgiving
- ☑ The Lord's Supper
- ☑ The Mysterious Supper
- ☑ Sacrament of Community

**ITS DEFINITION:**

**S**acrament of Communion is a Holy Sacrament by which the believer eats the Holy Body and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ presented by the Bread and Wine. This Sacrament has the greatest positions among the Seven Church Sacraments, sometimes it is called the Mystery of Mysteries or crown of Sacraments as all the Sacraments are crowned by it:

☑ The person baptized must receive Communion directly after Baptism.

☑ The person who confesses and repents must receive Communion directly after Confession.

☑ The person who marries must receive Communion directly after the wedding, according to the original Rite of Matrimony which must be done in between the Matins and Holy Mass. Whoever is ordained with any priestly rank must receive Communion at the end of the Holy Mass of his ordination.



giving the seal of the Holy Spirit to the consecrated candidate.

### Institution of Priesthood:

+ This sacrament was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ when He chose the twelve of his followers, and consecrated them for ministry “He called His disciples to Him, and from them He chose twelve whom He named apostles.” *Luke 6:13*

+ These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them saying: “preach saying “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons” *Matthew 10:5-8*

+ He gave them the authority of absolution and binding: “Assuredly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” *Matthew 18:18*

+ After His resurrection He appeared to them in the upper room at Zion and said to them “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained,” *John 20:22-23*

+ Only for them He said “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have

commanded you.” *Matthew 28:19,20*

+ Only to them He handed the mystery of His Holy Body and Precious Blood.

“And when the hour had come, He sat down and the twelve apostles with Him.....He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying “This is my Body which is given for you do this in remembrance of Me”, likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying “This is the new covenant in My Blood, which is shed for you.” *Luke 22:14-20*

### The honor of Priesthood:

Priesthood is a great honor as it is a consecration of the work with God for the salvation of the souls of the people of God.

#### 1- Priesthood is a divine call:

“and Jesus went up on the mountain and called to Him those He wanted, and they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out demons.”

*Mark 3:13-15*

#### 2- Divine choice:

“Now it came to pass in those days that Jesus went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God, and when it was day, He called His disciples to Him and from them He chose twelve whom

He also named apostles.” *Luke 6:12,13*

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.” *John 15:16*

### 3- Appointment:

“After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” *Luke 10:1*

### 4- Selection:

“As they (disciples) ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said “Now separate for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” *Acts 13:2,3*. That is why our teacher St. Paul boasted saying “But when it pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace to reveal His son in me, that I might preach Him among the gentiles.” *Galatians 1:15,16*

### 5- Consecration:

Lord Jesus Christ says “And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” *John 17:19*

Sanctify means consecrate, Christ has consecrated Himself for the ministry and redemption. Also all ranks or degrees of the priesthood is consecrated for

ministry, according to the example of Christ the High Priest.

### 6- Faithfulness and stewardship:

The Lord said: “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.” *Luke 12:42,43*.

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the Mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

*1Cor 4:1,2*

### 7- Priesthood is a great honor:

No-one takes this honor upon himself, he must by God just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become high priest, but it was He who said to Him “You are My Son. Today I have begotten You. As He also says in another place : “You are a priest for ever. According to the order of Melchizedek.”

*Hebrews 5:4-6*

## Ranks of Priesthood

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Priesthood has three ranks:

1. The order of Deacons
2. The order of Priests
3. The order of Bishops

Deacons are servants.

Priests are teachers.

Bishops are pastors or shepherds.



## 1- The order of Deacons

**D**eacon is a Syrian word that means servant and is pronounced in Greek as, deacon. The deacon's work is confined to helping the priest or bishop to perform the religious ministry. The first church appointed seven deacons full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom "The twelve summoned the multitude of disciples and said: "Seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom whom we may appoint over this business"

*Acts 6:2,3*

"When they were chosen, they set them before the apostles and when they had prayed they laid hands on them" *Acts 6:6*

They stipulated three conditions to distinguish deacons:

1. That they should be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
2. That they should be appointed by the apostles through the laying of hands with prayers.
3. That they should carry out certain responsibilities in the church.

Our teacher St. Paul mentioned some special qualities which deacons need, in his *First Epistle to Timothy 3:8-13*

"Likewise deacons must be:

- 1) reverent
- 2) not double tongued
- 3) not given too much wine (drunkenness)
- 4) not greedy for money

- 5) holding the mystery of faith with a pure conscience
- 6) ruling their children and their houses well
- 7) should be tested first, and then proved and found blameless, so they can be ordained" *1 Tim 3:10*

Though this rank is the beginning of priestly ranks and the most junior but St. Paul praises it saying:

"For those who served well as deacons, obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." *1Tim 3:13*

The rank of deaconry has five degrees that we mention, in ascending order:

- 1) Epsaltos (hymnist)
- 2) Anagnostis (reader)
- 3) Epodeacon (assistant deacon) (subdeacon)
- 4) Deacon (proper deacon)
- 5) Archdeacon (leader of deacons)

We talk about each degree regarding its conditions, clothing, work and rite of ordination.





## 1- EPSALTOS

Epsaltos is derived from a Coptic word Epsalmos which means Psalm or hymn, so it means hymnist.

+ His work is obvious from his name, that is hymns, and praises – learning and singing them in church. This rank is mentioned in some of the early church canon “hymnists also must be blessed by the bishop”

+ Children may be ordained (at the age of junior or high school) as Epsaltos, as the Psalm says: “Out of the mouth of babes and infants You have ordained strength” *Psalm 8:2*. The wisdom of children’s ordination is relating them to the church so they grow up in church, nourished by the milk of faith, dogma and rites, taste them and be filled, so they become steadfast in the Orthodox doctrine, clinging to it with a high level of spirituality and holiness as they grow in church, as the Psalm says “But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.....I will praise you for ever” *Psalm 52:8*

+ The Epsaltos is permitted to wear the tunic without the stole.

## Epsaltos Rite

+ After the Reconciliation Prayer of the divine liturgy, the archdeacon or hegomen brings along the children to be ordained in the rank of epsaltos. They stand before the altar in reverence and awe, so the bishop comes and advises them adequately like regular church attendance, lessons of learning hymns, Sunday School classes, also quietness and decency whether in church, home or street. He advises them about obedience and care against insults, lies and swearing, also regular confession to the priest and receiving the Holy Communion.

+ He must be sure that they came to church fasting-without eating or drinking anything as they will receive the Holy Communion at the end of the Mass.

+ The bishop must get a verbal undertaking from their parents to help them to fulfill these commandments, and not forbid them from coming to church for any reason. Then he commands the priest to follow them up and care for them spiritually, accept their confession. He asks the church hymnist or the adult deacons to promise to explain certain simple rites to them and teach them hymns.

Then he starts their ordination into the rank of EPSALTOS.



What is said in Epsaltos ordination:

Our Father.....Thanksgiving Prayer.

+ Our good God Who raised Heman and Asaaf to sing in Your holy places Who gave David the prophet to sing by the flute, harp and ten chords, Who said “Out of the mouth of babes and Infants You have ordained strength.” You who placed praise in Your holy church, and Your congregation worships You by Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We ask You Lord to grant Your servants Your grace to become Epsaltos in Your holy church and praise You by hymns, song and spiritual praises, singing with their hearts to the Lord, by grace and compassion of Your Only Begotten Son...etc.

+ O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, the Father of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Philanthropic One, for Your servants standing before You, who came to Your universal, Apostolic church, to be worthy to start faithfully and adore You in purity. Enlighten them by the sweetness of Your holy words. Grant them to sing spiritual hymns with understanding. Sanctify them. Bless them. Fill them with Your fear. Protect them by Your angelical power. Enrich them by all good gift and perfect talent, to live by Your holy, blessed will. May they grow into the perfection of Your

Holy Spirit. By Your Only Begotten Son our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory honor, dominion and worship are due to You together with Him and the Life-Giving and consubstantial Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The three signs: (Name) Epsaltos for the holy church of God.....Amen.

+ The first, the child is signed three times without laying of hands, while saying .... Name ... Epsaltos for the holy church.....

1. Khen evran...Blessed is God the Father
2. Blessed in His Only Begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ (for the second sign)
3. Blessed is the Holy Spirit the Paraclete (for the third sign)

+ After the end of signs, children are handed the service tunics with stoles to be signed by the bishop thrice, then they wear them.

+ They stand before the adult deacons at the deacons' chorus, share the liturgy's service with them with what hymns and responses they know.

+ By the end of the Mass, they receive the Holy Communion after the deacons. Their folks rejoice for them. Then they come to church regularly to grow up in virtues and worshipping to become blameless saints.



## (1) ARCHIEPSALTOS

+ The church's hymnist may be ordained in the rank of Archi-Epsaltos, specially if he is blind and cannot read, so is not ordained in the rank of Ognostis or reader. Archi-Epsaltos is the leader of hymnists and leads the deacons' chorus outside the altar during the responses and hymns of the divine liturgy or any other ritual services.

+ After the Prayer of Reconciliation the bishop stands at the altar's door, facing west. The person required to be ordained as Archi-Epsaltos is presented to him, bowing and standing reverently with the tunic. Then the bishop starts the ordination prayer as follows:

### Prayer read for the ARCHI-EPSALTOS, leader of hymnists

+ O Master, Lord, God the Pantocrator, Who is in heaven and accepts pure souls through all generations. Make a sign with Your servant (...Name) and make him one with Your righteous, a leader of hymnists like David. Keep him undefiled to the end of ages.

+ Accomplish his offering. Grant him a blameless search for praises. Keep him in all deeds. Grant him purity in all good work, and

may he conquer all the enemies. Nourish him by pure teachings and heavenly praises. Empower him at all times to fulfill Your will always. Grant him mercy and grace before Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Glory, honor, dominion and worship are due to You together with Him and the Life-Giving Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Kiryeyson 3 times

We ask You our Lord, God, the Philanthropic One, send the grace of Your Holy Spirit upon Your servant standing before You, to become a leader of hymnists. Fill him with power and righteousness to become an example to all and present to Your divine majesty praises of joy and salvation. Spiritual praises from the heart not lips, adoring You in spirit, truth and understanding. Grant him wisdom to manage the rank of Epsaltos, a good, spiritual management.

+ Keep him from the traps of the devil and grant him to become a holy altar for You, to be accepted before You always. Grant him goodness and humbleness of heart, meekness, faith, hope and love so his heart may abide by grace and praises, not by foods that do not benefit those who had them (*Hebrews 9:11-13*)

+ Bless him and his service, accept his praises and prayers as sweet incense.



+ Through the grace, mercy, and love of Your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ. Glory, honor, dominion and worship are due to You together with Him and the Life-Giving and consubstantial Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

+ He signs him at first by the cross (without laying of hands), saying:  
Archi-Epsaltos for the church..... finishes the rest of the three signs as usual.

+ The bishop signs the tunic 3 signs and dresses him.

+ He stands in his place at the chorus, and at the end of the Mass receives the Holy Communion.



## 2- ANAGNOSTIS

**T**his is Greek word composed of two parts:- the first derived from a word called ANAGNOSMA which means class, the second TEEC which means related to. Thus the meaning of the word Anagnostis is related to the epistle, and it means the reader of the epistles.

### Conditions of ordination:-

1. Age not less than 18 years in normal conditions.
2. Testified by all for good manner and deeds.
3. To be recommended by the priest and congregation, without any objection from anyone.
4. To be tested for good reading from the Holy Bible and understands what he reads.
5. Practice spiritual virtues and means of grace like Confession, Communion, reading of the Holy Bible and coming to church.
6. He must be ready for service and full of zeal.
7. Humble and not priding with the congregation, or boasting about his voice or work.

### His work:-

1. Daily readings in church specially the epistles in Coptic, English and Arabic so he must know by heart the introduction and end of every epistle in Coptic and Arabic or English, reading without mistakes so that the congregation may understand what is read.



### Introduction of Pauline epistle:-

A chapter from the Epistle of our teacher St. Paul to ..... May his blessings be upon us. Amen.

After the Pauline Epistle is read:- The grace of God the Father be with you my folks and brothers. Amen.

### Introduction of the Catholic epistles:- Which are universal epistles.

The Catholic Epistle from the Epistle of our teacher ..... May his blessings be upon us. Amen.

After the Catholic Epistle is read:-

Do not love the world, nor things which are in the world. The world shall pass away and all its desires, but he who does the will of God shall abide forever. Amen.

### Introduction of the Praxis:-

A chapter from the Acts of our fathers the pure apostles, may their holy blessings be with us all my fathers and brethren. Amen.

After the Acts of the apostles is read:-

The word of the Lord shall grow, multiply, be mighty and be confirmed in the holy church of God. Amen.

After the epistle is read, the Anagnostis (reader) must kneel before the altar and kiss the cross and the priest's his humbleness before God and the and does not boast with his voice or good reading.

### 2. Reciting the names of the fathers Patriarchs who passed away in the Lord:-

After the Commemoration of the Saints, the deacon inside the altar says:- Let those who read, recite the names of our holy fathers, the patriarchs who have fallen asleep; O Lord repose their souls and forgive us our sins.

### 3. Praises and hymns:- That is receiving the church Tasbeha (Praises) and hymns, and reciting them with the chorus during the Liturgy and other occasions.

### 4. Doctrine and sermons:- As mentioned in the rite of ordination of an Anagnostis "Lord show Your Face to Your servant standing before You, to know by Your holy words and preach Your laws to Your people, teach them Your pure words for their rescue and salvation.

In the commandment he says: " You must learn chapter by chapter the books of the Holy Bible, the breath of God, for which you were entrusted to teach the people."

But the practices doctrine and sermons by a permission from the bishop or priest in his presence or absence.

### Order of ordination of Ognostos:-

- 1- After the Reconciliation Prayer he is ordained.
- 2- He stands before the altar with the tunic (he may carry it folded on his arm), with a bowing head,



reverently before the Lord, ready to carry the burden of the rank and service. The Bishop stands at the altar's door, facing west.

3- The priests and individuals from the congregation who recommended him, stand behind him before the altar, bowing on his behalf before the altar and the bishop, requesting his ordination and undertaking for him before God and the bishop.

4- The bishop asks the congregation in church saying: Do you witness that he is truly worthy of this rank? They respond saying: Yes we witness he is worthy.

5- The Bishop takes scissors and cuts his hair as five crosses. One in the middle of the head, and four along the sides, while saying: (Name) Anagnostis for the church .....

Khen Evran ..... Evesmaroot .....

That is:- In the Name of the Father ... Blessed be God the Father the Pantocrator ..... His Only-Begotten Son Jesus Christ ..... Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. Amen.

He says the three signs and the congregation says AMEN after.

#### Notes:-

1- The bishop's question to the congregation: Is he worthy is important for a declared witnessing before God and the church about his worthiness and compatibility. The Apostle says: "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." *2Tim 2:2*.

2- Hair-cutting denotes cutting off bad habits as well

as evil thoughts.

3- Haircut on the shape of the cross, while mentioning the Holy Trinity is a proof of the graces and talents that he gets from the Holy Trinity by the worthiness of Christ's death on the cross.

4- The five crosses denote the five wounds of Christ Lord, which are the three nails, then the crown of thorns and the stab. As if he says: "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." *Philip 3:10*.

5- The bishop cuts each one's hair individually on the shape of five crosses by the three signs. After he finishes from them altogether, they stand up in one or two rows for prayers and commandment to be read.

6- The bishop prays the Thanksgiving prayer, then raises the incense by the censer at the four directions.

7- He faces the west and prays: "We ask and entreat Your goodness O Lord God the Pantocrator, accept Your servant (Name) an Ognostis in Your house. Give him reverence in worshipping You. Make him worthy to touch the utensils and become an honorable Ognostis before You."

Note:- The Ognostis has a right of touching the altar's sacred vessels by the white linen veil, to dry them after Mass and place them at the place specified for them.

8- The bishop faces the east saying this prayer:-  
"O great God, rich in His talents .... Come and



fill him by all wisdom and understanding keep him blameless in Your worshipping.”

9- At the end of the prayer the congregation says this response:-

“Lord hear us  
Lord have mercy upon us  
Lord bless us”

This response is said at the end of every prayer of the ordinations prayers.

10- The bishop faces the west while he holds his temples with his hands saying:- “O God, holder of all by Your right ..... show Your face to Your servant ..... to vow by Your holy sayings and preach Your commandments to Your people ..... grant him a humble heart to read and study Your laws to edify himself and his listeners.”

Note:- The bishop’s hand denotes the hand of God that holds the human mind to open his intellectual ability and free his tongue to teach and preach the powerful living word of God.

11- The bishop faces east praying: “O Master and Lord ..... Who chose His servant Ezra and gave him wisdom to read Your law to Your people ..... grant him wisdom and spirit of prophecy to recite Your holy sayings blamelessly to your people.”

Note:- It is very important for his reputation to be blameless, applying his words to his deeds so he might not stumble any one, but have a useful pure service for every one according to the example of Ezra the great writer.

12- The bishop (or archdeacon if present) reads for him this commandment:-

- (i) Learn chapter by chapter of the Holy Bible
- (ii) To read with understanding the Lord’s commandments “May the reader understand” and Ognostis means reader
- (iii) You preach the people
- (iv) Your reputation must be pure as a lamp-stand on the tower to enlighten all around him by his words.

13- At the end of the prayers the bishop signs the vestments of service and they put them on, stand with the chorus and share with the responses and hymns.

14- At the end of the mass they receive the Holy Communion, after the bishop drinks of the precious Blood and before he drinks water, he breathes in their faces one by one saying: “receive the Holy Spirit.”

15- A procession is made for them around the altar and the church and all rejoice.

#### The Ognostis vestments:-

- 1- The Ognostis wears a white tunic as white is appropriate for the service of God the One dressed in light, Who transfigured and His clothes became shining, exceedingly white *Mark 9:3*. White color denotes purity which must adorn every deacon and all other priesthood ranks.
- 2- He wears the stole crosswise over the left shoulder and as a belt in front, and the ends hanging from the shoulders.

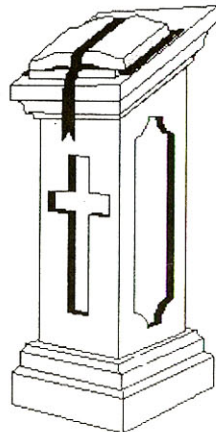


### Notes:-

- 1- Stole is a Greek word Patrachelion or grace, the rank of deacon is a grace which is taken by an individual and carried on his shoulders.
- 2- It hangs on the back like a cross as if he shares in carrying the cross as the Lord says: "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" *Matthew 16:24*.
- 3- The stole looks like a belt in front, as a proof of preparation and readiness for service like John the Baptist who was wearing a leather belt around his waist.

### Rules for Ognostis:-

- 1- No laying of hands on him but only his hair is cut.
- 2- He may marry after getting his rank, and if his wife dies, he may remarry, different from senior priestly ranks.



### 3- EPODEACON

**E**podeacon is a Greek word composed of two parts:-Epo means below or assistant, Diacon means deacon. So it means assistant deacon.

#### Conditions of ordination:-

- 1- Age, not less than 20 years in normal conditions, unless he shows excellence in ecclesiastical subjects and elderly wisdom, with saintly faithfulness evident in his manners.
- 2- To be recommended by the congregation and choir.
- 3- To be witnessed by everybody for righteous manner and good deed.

#### His work:-

- 1- Watching the doors of the church from heretics and false teachers.
- 2- Organize the participants in church, men in their place, women in their place, virgins and nuns in their place, widows in their place ..... and so on.
- 3- Lighting the church's lamps.
- 4- Keeping the church's books, priestly and servants vestments.
- 5- Making the censers ready.
- 6- Help the deacon and replacing him if necessary.

Note:- These jobs are added to the previous ones while he was an ognostis, and do not cancel them as he may act as ognostis if needed.



The rite of his ordination:-

- 1- He stands before the altar without the tunic while kneeling and bowing the head, after the Reconciliation Prayer.
- 2- The bishop prays with the attendants the Thanksgiving prayer, then raises the incense in the four directions
- 3- The bishop facing the east while praying this prayer: O Almighty Lord ..... accept the epodeaconship of Your servant (Name) standing here perfect awaiting Your heavenly talents.
- 4- The archdeacon says: The grace of You Lord Jesus Christ perfecting our weakness, may come upon the brother whose name was mentioned for epodeaconship rank ..... etc.

Note:- The ordination right is specific for bishops only but priests or archdeacon my share with some prayers.

- 5- The bishop prays facing eastwards:-  
Yes Lord make him worthy of the invitation for epodeaconship.
- 6- The congregation responds: Lord hear us, Lord have mercy on us, Lord bless us. This response is said at the end of every supplication of the ordinations, or Lord have mercy thrice with the same tune.
- 7- The bishop looks towards the west, and holds his temples praying:-  
“O Lord, Master and Pantocrator ..... show Your face to Your servant (Name) to become an

epodeacon. Fill him with Your Holy Spirit to become worthy to touch the sacred vessels of service.”

Note:- He touches it by a white linen veil to dry it after the Mass and keeps it.

- 8- The bishop faces east and prays:  
“Lord look to our service ..... send to Your servant (Name) Your grace to be worthy to complete his epodeaconship blamelessly.”
- 9- The bishop anoints his forehead by his right thumb, saying:  
“We call you in the holy church of God. Amen.”  
The congregation respond: Amen.
- 10- The archdeacon says: (Name) an epodeacon for the holy house of God, Amen.  
The congregation respond: Amen.
- 11- He signs him thrice on his forehead by his thumb (without laying of hands) saying:-  
“We call you (Name) an epodeacon for the church ..... in the Name of the Father ..... Blessed .....Then the second and third sign, and with each sign the congregation respond: Amen.”  
At these signs the Holy Spirit dwells upon him and gives him gifts of service required of him.
- 12- The bishop faces east and prays thanksgiving prayer, to thank God for fulfilling this ordination saying:  
“I thank You O Master Pantocrator ..... give him reverence and purity to become perfect in all works of service .....”



13- He dresses him the tunic and stole after signing them, while saying: "Glory and honor ..... peace and edification ..... Amen." Then he recites for him the specific commandment for epodeacons:

"My son you are entrusted for a good rank ..... you become a follower of the deacon, help him in service and guard the doors of the church and keep order in it ....."

14- At the end of the Mass he receives the Holy Communion, and the breath from the bishop and they make a procession for him in church, to rejoice for this ordination.

#### The Epodeacons vestments:

Like the Ognostis vestments with the same order, the stole is tied as a belt in front which means an obligation of duties and services and dedication to the church rules which he must follow and behave accordingly.

Note:- If there is no stole during the ordination he may tie a red linen waist band instead of it. The waist band is just a ribbon make of red linen.

#### Its rules:-

- 1- No laying of hands on him and his hair is not cut but only signed.
- 2- He may marry after his ordination without losing it.

#### 4- DEACON

**I**t is a Syrian word that means servant, with a Greek synonym Diakon and in Coptic a country servant.

#### Conditions of his ordination:-

- 1- Age no less than 25 years
- 2- Should pass a test period and discipleship to reach maturity needed for the service responsibility according to the apostle's words:- "Let these also first be proved, then let them serve as deacons, faithful in all thing." *1 Tim 3:10*
- 3- To be an example in speaking, attitude, love and purity, watching himself, caring for his spiritual and eternal life.
- 4- To be meek, content, not loving money, able to bear tribulation of the service without any complaint, has principles, not favouring the rich or prominent, on account of others.
- 5- Should keep reading and studying to edify himself spiritually and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6- To be witnessed by believers for chastity, honesty and love of peace.
- 7- To be recommended by the church's congregation as he is worthy of this rank.

These conditions must be necessary specially when the deacon is ordained as a full time consecrated person for church service.