

Ordination of Doorkeepers

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service is intended to be used as part of another service – principally the Eucharist. It may however be used alone if desired – in which case Bible readings and prayers are introduced as necessary. A priest may conduct this service with faculty or express permission from the bishop. The people are seated. A priest or suitable person calls the ordinands forward.

Priest: Let those who are to be ordained to the Office of Doorkeeper come forward.

The ordinands rise from their seats and advance a few paces towards the bishop, holding lighted candles. They bow to him, the candles are taken from them and they are seated. The bishop charges them as follows:

Bishop:

It was the duty of the Doorkeeper in olden times to ring the church bells and to open the church at the appointed times to the faithful, but to protect the church at all times from unbelievers disruptions, to open the book for the preacher and to guard the church furniture. In our time these functions are supplemented with symbolic and moral significance. It will be your duty as Doorkeepers to keep the keys of your heart open at all times to that which is good and noble, but to keep it closed against all evil or unworthy suggestions. As it is your duty to keep your own heart, so you should also seek to predispose the hearts of others to things that are beautiful and, in persuasive language, set forth to them the attractiveness of noble ideals.

Bishop: In this order, you learn to control the emotions and passions, as before you learned to master the crude instincts of the physical body. There are those who have thought of the emotions as necessarily evil and have taught others to uproot it from their nature. Not for you is it to think that way. God has given us power to feel emotion, and it too is a power which can become mighty in His service. At whatever stage a person's emotions may be, they represent the working of the divine power within, and should not be suppressed, but raised and consecrated to the service of God. If through carelessness or selfishness the emotions have been allowed to become self-centred, it is our duty not to kill them out, but to

purify and raise them; to substitute for devotion to our own pleasure devotion to God and humanity; to put aside, as far as may be, affection for self for affection that gives, caring nothing for any return; not to ask love, but to give love. Hence it is your task as Doorkeepers to train your emotions, laying them as a gift on Christ's holy altar, that they too may be used in his service.

The charge being ended, the ordinands kneel before the bishop who rises and says:

Bishop: Let us pray

Bishop: O Lord Christ, who is ever ready to receive and to strengthen the earnest aspirations of your children, look down in love on these your servants who desire to become worthy to serve you as Doorkeepers in your Holy Church. Sanctify + them, O Lord, with your heavenly grace that, growing continually in virtue, they may rightly practice the duties of their office and so be found acceptable in your sight, O great King of Love, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The ordinand kneels before the bishop who places his right hand on their head and says:

Bishop: In the name of Christ our Lord, I admit you to the Order of Doorkeeper.

The bishop hands a key and a bell to each ordinand, saying:

Bishop: Like as they that bear a key can throw open the door of the church for the use of all mankind, so throw open the door of your hearts for the service of your fellow believers. And as one rings a bell to summon people to divine worship so by the force of good example; summon people to the service of God.

Each ordinand rings the bell three times.

The service continues unless this is the only purpose today, in which case;

The bishop then blesses the new readers with the following words:

Bishop: The blessing of God Almighty, the + Father, the + Son, and the Holy + Spirit come down upon you, that you may rightly fulfil that which today you have undertaken.

All: Amen.