

Semi-Solemn Form of Mass

A semi-solemn form of Mass with just the celebrant and deacon, but no subdeacon, was approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in 1957¹ for all of the rites of Holy Week. Certain missionary congregations had also previously received an indult for this practice. In 1963,² the semi-solemn form was approved for the entire Roman Rite.

Solemn Mass is as usual with the following adaptations.

Principles:

- D is on C's right at the foot as usual.
- D's step position is on the second altar step as usual.
- D's sedilia position is on the right as usual.
- D performs his duties at the missal during the Canon as usual.

In absence of the subdeacon, the deacon absorbs his parts as follows:

Epistle: MC2 presents the book to D, who performs the Epistle actions as Sd would. After chanting the Epistle, D receives the blessing from C at the end and returns the book to MC2.

Gospel: Cb may be employed to act as Sd during the Gospel, by holding the book and presenting it to C to kiss at the conclusion, after which he closes the book, bows to C, descends to the foot *in plano*, and after genuflecting with the Gospel group, returns the book to the sacristy. [If Cb is not available, a lectern is prepared where the Gospel will be chanted and MC2 will present the book for C to kiss]

Offertory:

- D brings the chalice to the altar wearing the humeral veil like Sd; the veil is then removed by MCI and returned to the sacristy.
- D performs Sd's duties in addition to his own.
- the paten is placed under the corporal and purificator as at High Mass.
- D acts as usual after the Offertory actions.

Pater noster—Libera me: D performs the Embolism actions as usual.

Pax: It is presumed that no cleric is in choir, since a tonsured cleric may fulfill the position of a substitute subdeacon, however if a lay religious is in choir, the Pax will be given to him as usual. Otherwise, after D receives the Pax from C, he remains on the Epistle side of the predella substituting for Sd to remove the pall for C's forthcoming consumption of the Precious Blood; MCI retains his missal position.

Communion: D bears the paten during the distribution on C's right.

Ablutions: While returning from the distribution, D switches behind C to end up on his right (the Epistle side) accompanying him to the predella, where:

¹ Cf. J.B. O'Connell, *The Celebration of Mass*, p 398, ff 10 referring to SRC, February 1, 1957, §3.

² This legislation is applicable to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*.

- D assists C with both cruets, then transfers the pall to the Gospel side.
- MCI meanwhile transfers the missal to the Epistle side in place of Sd.
- D finishes cleaning and assembling the chalice, returns it to the credence, and then returns behind C (*unum post aliam*).

Last Gospel: D holds the card for C, after which he joins C in the center of the predella, reverences the cross, and descends *in plano* crossing to C's right (the Epistle side of the foot).