



# ORDER OF CROWNING AN IMAGE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

The Church has always honored the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is “the Mother of the Son of God... the chosen companion of the Redeemer...the perfect follower of Christ...and the foremost member of the Church” (*Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, 5). The tradition of depicting Mary with a crown dates to the 5<sup>th</sup> century and of the tradition of placing a crown on an image of her dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, the crowning of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary may take place “within Mass, within the liturgy of the hour at evening prayer, or within a celebration of the word of God” (Ibid., 10).

When the crowning of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary takes place within Mass, the Mass of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Mass corresponding to the title represented by the image to be crowned may be celebrated, provided that the liturgical norms permit a choice of Mass to be made (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, 1039). After the homily, the Thanksgiving and Invocation, the Crowning, and the General Intercessions take place according to the *Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, 15-18; the texts and rubrics of the Thanksgiving and Invocation and Crowning are below).

What follows are the rubrics and texts, along with suggested songs, for the *Crowning of an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary within a Celebration of the Word of God* that can be used in parishes, schools, etc.

The requisites for the liturgy are: (1) white stole and cope, (2) crown, (3) vessel of holy water with sprinkler, (4) thurible, boat, incense, and charcoal.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Song

(stand)

Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing;  
You reign now in splendor with Jesus, our King.

Refrain: Ave, ave, ave, María! Ave, ave, María!

In heaven the blessed your glory proclaim;  
On earth we, your children, invoke your sweet name. [Refrain]

Your name is our power, your virtues our light;  
Your love is our comfort, your prayers our might. [Refrain]

We pray for the Church, our true mother on earth;  
And beg you to watch o'er the land of our birth. [Refrain]

### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Amen).

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of the blessed Virgin, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (And with your spirit).

## **Brief Instruction**

My dear people, we have come here to crown this statue of the virgin Mother of God. As we begin this celebration let us be attentive and listen to the word of God in faith. This ceremony has a lesson to teach us about the Gospel: that the greatest in the kingdom of heaven are those who are foremost in serving and love.

Our Lord himself came to serve, not be served; he drew all things to himself when he was lifted up from the earth, and he reigned from the tree by the power of gentleness and love.

And our Lady, whose glory we proclaim today, was the humble servant of the Lord when she was on earth: she gave herself utterly to her Son and his work; with him, and under him, she was an instrument in our redemption.

Now, in the glory of heaven, she is still the God-bearer to Christ's brothers and sisters: she cares about their eternal salvation; she is minister of holiness and queen of love.

## **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray.

*Brief period of silent prayer.*

O God, Father of mercies,  
whose Only Begotten Son,  
as he hung upon the Cross,  
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,  
to be our Mother also,  
grant, we pray, that with her loving help  
your Church may be more fruitful day by day  
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,  
may draw to her embrace  
all the families of the people.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. (Amen).

## READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

*Other appropriate texts from the Lectionary for Mass for feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
may be chosen.*

(sit)

### First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,  
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as men make merry when dividing spoils.  
For the yoke the burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
And the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
will be burned as fuel for flamed.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast  
and forever peaceful,  
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
which he confirms and sustains  
By judgement and justice,  
both now and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord. (Thanks be to God).

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

*R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.*

Praise, you servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
both now and forever.

*R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.*

From the rising to the setting of the sun  
is the name of the Lord to be praised.  
High above all nations is the Lord;  
above the heavens is his glory.

*R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.*

Who is like the Lord, our God, who is enthroned on high  
and looks down upon the heavens and the earth below?

*R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.*

He raises up the lowly from the dust;  
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor  
To seat them with princes,  
with the princes of his own people.

*R/. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia. *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.

*Alleluia, Alleluia.*

(stand)

## **Gospel**

Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
(Glory to you, O Lord).

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David,  
and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and  
pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,  
for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,  
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,  
and his Kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age,  
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;  
for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
(Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ).

**Homily**

(sit)

## **RITE OF CROWNING**

(stand)

*A crown is brought forward.*

### **Thanksgiving and Invocation**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of heaven and earth for in your mercy and justice you cast down the mighty and exalt the lowly.

Your marvelous wisdom is shown above all in the word made flesh and in his Virgin Mother.

For he, your Son, who freely humbled himself even unto death on the cross, now sits at your right hand and is radiant with unending glory, the King of kings and Lord of Lords; and she, the Virgin who wished to be called your servant, was singled out to be Mother of the redeemer and true Mother of all the living: now she is exalted above the choirs of angels and reigns in glory with her Son, praying for all of us, the Queen of mercy, pleading for grace.

Merciful Lord, look upon us your servants, who by crowing this image of the Mother of your Son, proclaim him as King of all creation and approach her as our queen.

Give us the grace to follow them in serving you; to do what love demands for the sake of our brothers and sisters; to deny ourselves and spend ourselves, so as to win our neighbors for you; to be lowly on earth, so as to be exalted in heaven where you reward your faithful servants with a crown of life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Amen).

### **Crowning**

*The crown is sprinkled with holy water and then placed on an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary while a suitable Marian song is sung or played (e.g., Bring Flowers of the Rarest, On this Day O Beautiful Mother, etc.). The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is incensed during the song.*

## Litany

(kneel)

Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy.*  
Christ, have mercy, *Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy, *Lord, have mercy.*

God our Father in heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*  
Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*  
Most honored virgins, *pray for us.*

Chosen daughter of the Father, *pray for us.*  
Mother of Christ the King, *pray for us.*  
Glory of the Holy Spirit, *pray for us.*  
Virgin daughter of Zion, *pray for us.*  
Virgin poor and humble, *pray for us.*  
Virgin gentle and obedient, *pray for us.*

Handmaid of the Lord, *pray for us.*  
Mother of the Lord, *pray for us.*  
Helper of the Redeemer, *pray for us.*

Full of grace, *pray for us.*  
Fountain of beauty, *pray for us.*  
Model of virtue, *pray for us.*

Finest fruit of the redemption, *pray for us.*  
Perfect disciple of Christ, *pray for us.*  
Untarnished I mage of the Church, *pray for us.*

Woman transformed, *pray for us.*  
Woman clothed with the sun, *pray for us.*  
Woman crowned with stars, *pray for us.*

Gentle Lady, *pray for us.*  
Gracious Lady, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, *pray for us.*

Joy of Israel, *pray for us.*  
Splendor of the Church, *pray for us.*  
Pride of the human race, *pray for us.*

Advocate of grace, *pray for us.*  
Minister of holiness, *pray for us.*  
Champion of God's people, *pray for us.*

Queen of love, *pray for us.*  
Queen of mercy, *pray for us.*  
Queen of peace, *pray for us.*

Queen of angels, *pray for us.*  
Queen of patriarchs and prophets, *pray for us.*  
Queen of apostles and martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Queen of confessors and virgins, *pray for us.*  
Queen of all saints, *pray for us.*  
Queen conceived without original sin, *pray for us.*  
Queen assumed in heaven, *pray for us.*

Queen of all the earth, *pray for us.*  
Queen of heaven, *pray for us.*  
Queen of the universe, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *hear us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, O glorious Mother of the Lord.  
*That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.*

## **Concluding Prayer**

God of mercy,  
listen to the prayers of your servants  
who have honored your handmaid Mary  
as mother and queen.  
Grant that by your grace  
we may serve you and  
our neighbor on earth  
and be welcomed into  
your eternal kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. (Amen)

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

(stand)

### Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you. (And with your spirit).

May almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.  
(Amen.)

Go in the peace of Christ. (Thanks be to God).

### Song

Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria!  
Hail, Mother of mercy and of love, O Maria!  
Triumph all ye cherubim!  
Sing with us ye seraphim!  
Heaven and earth resound the hymn!  
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

Our life, our sweetness here below, O Maria!  
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria!  
Triumph all ye cherubim!  
Sing with us ye seraphim!  
Heaven and earth resound the hymn!  
Salve, salve, salve, Regina!

