

giving a fair space before the Bishop, he sitting with his mitre on, admonishes them, saying,

Dearly beloved children, ye who are about to be promoted to the sacred order of the Subdiaconate, should again and again attentively consider what a burden you aspire to to-day, of your own accord. As yet, you are free, and it is lawful for you, at will, to pass over to worldly pursuits; but if you now receive this order, it will be no longer lawful for you to shrink back from your resolution, but for ever you must wait upon God, whom to serve is to reign, and with His assistance preserve your chastity, and in the ministry of His Church, be for ever His servants. Therefore, while there is time, think upon it; and if you still wish to persevere in your holy resolution, in the name of the Lord, come hither.

When they are come and are kneeling before the Bishop, the Archdeacon calls the others who are to be ordained, saying,

Let them who are to be ordained Deacons and Priests draw near.

When they come up, the Archdeacon places them in order. Those to be ordained Deacons he puts on the Epistle side, those to be ordained Priests before the middle of the Altar, with their faces turned towards it. Which done, the Bishop kneels down against the faldstool, and all that are to be ordained prostrate themselves on the ground. The Assistants and others standing by, kneel down, and the Cantors begin the Litany, the Choir answering: or if the office is performed without singing, the Bishop says, whilst the Assistants and Chaplains answer,

*(Here follows Litany of the Saints.)*

After it is said in the Litany, That Thou vouchsafe to give eternal rest, &c, the Bishop rises from his seat with his mitre, and turning himself to those to be ordained, and holding in his left hand his pastoral staff, while they remain prostrate, says,

That Thou vouchsafe to bless these Thy chosen Servants. R. We beseech Thee hear us.

That Thou vouchsafe to bless and sanctify these Thy chosen Servants. R. We beseech Thee hear us.

That Thou vouchsafe to bless, to sanctify and to consecrate, these Thy chosen Servants. R. We beseech Thee hear us.

Then again, he sits down on the faldstool whilst the Choir proceeds with the Litany to the end. Which ended, the Bishop rises with his mitre, and sits upon the faldstool before the middle of the Altar, and the Archdeacon says with a loud voice,

Let them who are to be ordained Deacons and Priests withdraw.

When they have removed to a place where they can see the Bishop celebrating, he proceeds to ordain the Subdeacons. Whilst they are placed on their knees in a circle before him, the Bishop thus admonishes them,

Dearly beloved children, ye who are about to obtain the office of Subdiaconate, carefully mark what is the ministry which is entrusted to you. For it is the duty of the Subdiacon to prepare water for the ministry of the Altar; to assist the

Deacon; to wash the cloths of the Altar, and the Corporals; to present to him the Chalice and Paten for the use of the Sacrifice. The offerings which come to the Altar, are called the loaves of proposition. Of the offerings themselves, so much only must be placed on the Altar as sufficeth for the people, lest any thing should remain to decay in the Tabernacle. The cloths which are laid upon the Altar ought to be washed in one vessel, and the Corporals in another. But where ye wash the Corporals, no other linen should be washed. And the water itself should be poured out into the baptistery. Endeavour, therefore, by fulfilling these visible ministrations which we have mentioned with decency and diligence, to fulfil by your example what is invisible. The Altar, indeed, of the holy Church is Christ himself, as John witnesseth, who, in his Apocalypse, relates that he saw a golden altar as he stood before the throne, in which, and by which, the oblations of the faithful are consecrated to God the Father. Of which altar, the cloths and corporals are the members of Christ, namely, the faithful of God, by whom, as with precious vestments, the Lord is encompassed, as speaks the Psalmist: The Lord hath reigned, He is clothed with beauty. The blessed John also, in the Apocalypse, saw the Son of Man girded with a golden girdle, that is, with a band of Saints. If, therefore, it should happen that in any thing the faithful should be defiled through human frailty, you must give the water of heavenly doctrine, by which purified, they may return as an ornament of the Altar, and the worship of the Divine Sacrifice. Be, therefore, such as can serve worthily the Divine Sacrifices, and the Church of God, that is, the Body of Christ, having your foundation on the true and Catholic faith, since, as the Apostle says, whatsoever is not of faith is sin, is schismatical, and without the unity of the Church. And, therefore, if up to this time ye have been remiss in your attendance on the Church, from now you must become diligent. If up to now ye have been drowsy, you must become watchful; if up to now intemperate, you must become chaste; which may He himself please to grant you Who liveth and reigneth for ever. R. Amen.

Then the Bishop receives the Chalice and gives it to all of them, with an empty Paten over it, which they each successively touch with their right hands, whilst the Bishop says,

See Whereof the ministry is delivered unto you, therefore, I admonish you, that you so demean yourselves as to please God.

The Archdeacon receives, and gives to them cruets with wine and water, and a basin with a napkin, all of which likewise they must touch.

Afterwards the Bishop rises, and turning to the people with his mitre on, says,

Let us pray our God and Lord, dearly beloved