

The Boat-bearer at Pontifical Solemn Mass at the Throne

I. Preparation:

A. The **boat-bearer** arrives in the sacristy vested in cassock and surplice ten minutes before the ceremony begins.

B. He checks the boat to ensure that it is well stocked with incense, and that the spoon is therein upside-down. **N.B.** The spoon should always be upside-down when in the boat. He then stands with the thurifer holding the boat against his chest in the right hand, the left being placed on his abdomen.

II. The Beginning of the Ceremony:

A. When the Bishop has received the Pontifical Ring, the thurifer and **boat-bearer** approach. The **boat-bearer** gives the boat to the Assistant Priest, and kneels as incense is imposed.

B. He receives back the boat and goes to the head of the procession. His place is in front of the thurifer.

III. Arrival in the Sanctuary:

A. Upon arrival in the sanctuary the **boat-bearer** genuflects and goes to his place near credence I.

B. The **boat-bearer's** normal position is to the left of the thurifer. Position during the prayers at the foot of the altar:

IV. The Incensation of the Altar:

A. As at Solemn Mass, the altar at Pontifical Mass is incensed twice; to wit, before the Introit and during the Offertory. The movements of the **boat-bearer** during the incensations of the altar are the same both times.

B. The **boat-bearer**, standing at the thurifer's left, accompanies the latter to the foot of the altar steps on the epistle side. The two bow and ascend to the predella.

C. The **boat-bearer** gives the opened boat to the deacon of the Mass.

D. He kneels with the thurifer while incense is imposed.

E. Thereafter, he rises, receives the boat back from the deacon, and -- turning to the right -- descends in plano and resumes his place near credence I:

N.B. After the incensation of the altar at the Introit the thurifer will join the **boatbearer** at credence I. After the incensation at the Offertory, however, the thurifer will

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tend to the various incensations. After he has incensed the faithful, he will be joined by the **boatbearer** -- who will come to his right -- in the middle of the sanctuary as in the diagram below:

After the genuflection, the **boat-bearer** will lead the thurifer and torchbearers to the place whence the torches are to be taken. He will then lead them back to the sanctuary where he will genuflect with them and return to his place by credence

V. The Gospel:

A. Incense is imposed at the throne. Hence, as soon as the deacon of the Mass places the Evangelarium on the Altar, the thurifer and **boat-bearer** go to the throne, observing all genuflections on the way.

B. If necessary, they await as the deacon kisses the Pontifical Ring and allow him to pass between them as he leaves.

C. The **boat-bearer** gives the opened boat to the Assistant Priest and kneels behind the latter on the floor as incense is imposed.

D. Thereafter, he rises, receives back the boat, genuflects, and leaves with the thurifer.

E. The two join the Gospel procession as shown in the diagram below:

F. After having genuflected with the others, the boat-bearer returns to his place by the credence where he will stand during the singing of the Gospel. Positions during the Gospel:

G. After the bishop has been incensed, the **boat-bearer** joins the thurifer in the center, genuflects with him, and accompanies him to the sacristy.

H. The two return after the singing of *Et Homo Factum est*, or at some other convenient time, if the Creed is not sung.

VI. The Consecration:

A. Incense is put on by Mc I at the Communicantes.

B. The **boat-bearer** kneels beside the thurifer during the elevation.

C. After the elevation the **boat-bearer** leaves with the thurifer. At a convenient time the two return, the **boat-bearer** not carrying the boat.

VII. The End of Mass:

A. When the tabernacle door closes the thurifer and the **boatbearer** lead out the torchbearers as before.

B. Upon returning the two genuflect and prepare the thurible and boat. They kneel at their places by credence I for the Last Blessing.

C. When the Bishop descends in plano the thurifer and **boatbearer** approach and incense is imposed as usual, the Assistant Priest ministering. The **boat-bearer** then takes his place in the procession, genuflects at the signal of the Mc, and leads the procession to the sacristy.