

The Elevation of an Archpriest

If the elevation is known by the candidate in advance, the candidate shall prepare for the elevation by serving Vespers on the eve of his elevation, and, after having a light supper, begin his Eucharistic Fast. During that time, he shall interact as little as possible with anyone and spend that time praying and preparing himself for the elevation. He shall refrain from marital relations during this time. He shall have his confession heard either after Vespers or during Matins on the day of the elevation.

On the day of the elevation, immediately following the reading of the Gospel, the two sponsors lead the candidate out the north door to the center of the solea.

The sponsors help the candidate make a prostration as the first sponsor intones in a loud voice:

1st Sponsor: COMMAND!

The sponsors help the candidate make a second prostration as the second sponsor intones in a loud voice:

2nd Sponsor: COMMAND!

The sponsors help the candidate make a third prostration as the first sponsor intones in a loud voice:

1st Sponsor: COMMAND! Holy Master, bless him who is before thee.

The candidate kneels before the Bishop who blesses the candidate and says:

Bishop: Our lowliness, through the grace of the All-Holy Spirit, which perfecteth every ministry, commissioneth thee to be a Protopresbyter (or Archpriest).

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord!

People: Lord, have mercy!

Bishop: O Master, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who hast graciously bestowed upon our race the Priesthood and hast endued us with the grace of this gift and honor, and hast appointed us devout and able to order the members of the Priesthood and the other servitors of thy mysteries in lesser degrees: Do thou thyself now endue also with thy grace our brother and my son, the Priest (*NAME*), and adorn him with Thine integrity, that he may stand at the head of the Priests of thy people, being a good example to those who are under him. Grant him to attain in goodness unto old age with devotion and propriety, and

have mercy upon us all in that thou art good. For thou art the Bestower of wisdom and creation hymneth thee unto ages of ages. Amen.

The new Archpriest rises and kisses the Bishop's right hand. The Bishop takes the Pectoral Cross, blesses it and shouts to the people:

Bishop: HE IS WORTHY!

People: HE IS WORTHY!

Bishop: MUSTAHEK!

People: MUSTAHEK!

Bishop: AXIOS!

People: AXIOS!

People: AXIOS! (*Thrice, singing*)