

## MC2 AT HIGH MASS

It is customary to employ an MC2 at Solemn Mass; of course, the pontifical ceremonies presume its use. Fortescue<sup>1</sup> describes MC2's duties for all of the various seasonal ceremonies in their solemn form. An MC2 can also be employed at High Mass with minor adaptation to assist MCI with the more complex ceremonies or to add solemnity to a festive occasion.<sup>2</sup> The method described herein is an adaptation for High Mass of MC2's duties during a Solemn Mass.<sup>3</sup>

### GENERAL RULES

-MC2 is usually on the left, while MCI is on the right.

### DUTIES

-MCI has charge of C and overall supervision of the ceremonies, while MC2 has charge of the sacred inferior ministers. Hence, MC2 must have a perfect knowledge of the other servers' duties in addition to his own.<sup>4</sup>

-In certain cases, MC2 may also have to coordinate or prompt the clergy who are in choir, as well as the laity in the nave. In both cases this must be done discretely without causing undue distraction.

-MC2 has two other consistent duties during Mass:

1. **moving the missal** during each incensation of the altar.

2. **marshaling processions:**

    processional

    Gospel action

    whenever the Tbs are led into or out of the sanctuary

    recessional

### PROCESSIONAL

a. **if Th is carrying the thurible with blessed incense:** MC2 follows behind Th at a distance of 4 pews.

b. **if Th is not carrying the thurible:**<sup>5</sup> MC2 processes at the head of the ministers with Th on his left. If there is a boatbearer, Th processes with Bb behind MC2.

-upon reaching the foot, MC2 genuflects, goes to the Gospel side of the foot and faces across the sanctuary awaiting the arrival of C.

-when MCI arrives at the foot, he also turns to face across the sanctuary, and when C arrives at the foot, MC2 turns towards the altar and genuflects again upon MCI's signal.

### IF THERE IS AN ASPERGES

-MC2 remains at his normal position (Gospel corner of the foot), and leads the servers while bowing towards the altar for the *Gloria Patri*.

-after the *Asperges* is finished, MC2 turns inwards with MCI and then shoulder-to-shoulder with MCI leads C to the sedilia, where MC2 takes his place on the left-hand side of C while he vests.

-when C has finished vesting, MC2 goes shoulder-to-shoulder with MCI to lead C back to the foot, pairing off with MCI to leave space for C upon arriving there. MC2 kneels on MCI's signal for the Preparatory Prayers.

<sup>1</sup> *The Ceremonies of the Roman Rite Described*, Adrian Fortescue (Burns & Oates, 1962—St. Austin Press, 1996).

<sup>2</sup> NB: It is not proportionate to employ a second MC during a High Mass offered on a second class Sunday or third class feast, ferial or any other lower ranking day or office, unless a complex ceremony accompanies (e.g., an ordination).

<sup>3</sup> In turn adapted from his duties at a solemn Pontifical Mass.

<sup>4</sup> In chapters of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen, a qualified MC should hold this position.

<sup>5</sup> Either Th has his hands folded, or is accompanying C with MCI for the *Asperges* in holding the aspersory.