How does the parish do the liturgy for the installation of a pastor?

Order of Installation of the Pastor-Elect

When a Priest Presides:

*Book of Blessings #2034-2045*

In the entrance procession, the Bishop’s representative enters the congregation last, that is, as if he were the principal celebrant of the liturgy. In the entrance procession, the pastor-elect should take a place of prominence, typically immediately in front of the Bishop’s representative. If the Bishop’s representative will concelebrate the Mass, he should vest in a chasuble. If he is not concelebrating, the Bishop’s representative should wear a cope with stole in the liturgical color of the day. All other ministers should vest as usual.

The Bishop’s representative along with the other clergy present reverence the altar as usual. The Bishop’s representative proceeds to the celebrant’s chair while the pastor-elect proceeds to a place of prominence in the sanctuary. The Mass begins with the sign of the cross and the greeting.

**PRESENTATION OF THE PASTOR-ELECT:**

The pastor-elect stands before the priest who has been appointed by the bishop to preside at the installation and is presented to him by another priest or deacon using the following words:

*Father N.*, after consulting with the clergy and laity of the diocese, Archbishop Nienstedt has chosen the Reverend N. N. as the new pastor of this parish. I now have the pleasure of presenting him to you and to the people of this parish.

**PROCLAMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT:**

The presiding priest responds:

*My dear friends, because Archbishop Nienstedt is aware of your pastoral needs and is confident of Father N.’s qualifications for the office of pastor, he has asked me to express, in his name, his pastoral concern for the people of this parish, and he commends Father N. to you as your new pastor.*

**WELCOME BY THE PEOPLE:**

The presiding priest may then invite the people to express their approval and support of their new pastor.

**PRESENTATIONS:**
The presiding priest introduces the new pastor to various groups of the parish.

PARISH CLERGY AND STAFF:

The priests, deacons, and other members of the parish staff are presented to the new pastor by the presiding priest:

N., my brother, Father N. N., Deacon N. N., and N. N. will assist you in the pastoral care of the people of this parish. Share this ministry in a spirit of mutual trust, common prayer, and genuine concern.

The new pastor is greeted by his associates in the parish ministry.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Father N. this is the pastoral council of N. Parish. It is the voice of your people and will assist and counsel you as you minister to this parish. Always be attentive to the needs they express.

Then the pastor faces the parish council and says:

My friends, I pledge to seek your counsel, guidance, and advice in spiritual and temporal care of my pastorate.

The members of the parish council immediately come forward and greet the new pastor.

PARISH TRUSTEES (OPTIONAL):

If there are parish trustees, they may come forward and the presiding priest presents them to the new pastor:

Father N., N. N., and N. N. are the civil trustees of this parish. As the lay officers of the parish corporation they will share with you the responsibility for the parish’s corporate and legal affairs.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE OF INSTALLATION:

The presiding priest addresses the new pastor, who stands facing him:

Remember, my brother N., always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd and a wise teacher of your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do.

The new pastor then takes his place at the celebrant’s chair, and after inviting the people to pray, says the opening prayer of the Mass and the Mass proceeds as usual. The Bishop’s representative takes a place with the concelebrating clergy, or exits the sanctuary.

Following the Profession of Faith, the pastor recites the Oath of Fidelity and signs both on the Altar giving them to the Bishop’s representative.

General intercessions may be used from the Book of Blessings #2044.

The rest of the Mass proceeds as usual.
Order of Installation of the Pastor-Elect

When the Archbishop Presides

Book of Blessings #2022-2033

PRESENTATION OF THE PASTOR-ELECT:

After the Gospel, the pastor-elect stands before the Archbishop who addresses the people in these or similar words:

My dear friends, because I am aware of your pastoral needs and am confident of Father N.’s qualifications for the office of pastor, I now commend Father N. to you as your new pastor.

WELCOME BY THE PEOPLE:

The Archbishop may then invite the people to express their approval and support of their new pastor.

HOMILY

PRESENTATIONS:

The presiding priest introduces the new pastor to various groups of the parish.

PARISH CLERGY AND STAFF:

The priests, deacons, and other members of the parish staff are presented to the new pastor by the presiding priest:

N., my brother, Father N., Deacon N., and N. will assist you in the pastoral care of the people of this parish. Share this ministry in a spirit of mutual trust, common prayer, and genuine concern.

The new pastor is greeted by his associates in the parish ministry.

PARISH COUNCIL:

Father N. this is the pastoral council of N. Parish. It is the voice of your people and will assist and counsel you as you minister to this parish. Always be attentive to the needs they express.

Then the pastor faces the parish council and says:

My friends, I pledge to seek your counsel, guidance, and advice in spiritual and temporal care of my pastorate.

The members of the parish council immediately come forward and greet the new pastor.
PARISH TRUSTEES (OPTIONAL):

If there are parish trustees, they may come forward and the presiding priest presents them to the new pastor:

Father N., N. N., and N. N. are the civil trustees of this parish. As the lay officers of the parish corporation they will share with you the responsibility for the parish’s corporate and legal affairs.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH OF FIDELITY

The Archbishop addresses the new pastor, who stands facing him:

Remember, my brother N., always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd and a wise teacher of your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do.

As a teacher of faith, I ask you now to lead your people in the profession of faith.

Following the Profession of Faith, the pastor recites the Oath of Fidelity and signs both on the Altar giving them to the Archbishop.

General intercessions may be used from the Book of Blessings #2044.

The rest of the Mass proceeds as usual.