

Liturgical note to Deacons

In regards prayers over the people, Solemn Blessings and the Proper handling of the book of the Gospels

Dear brothers,

As we continue to get use to the new third edition of the Roman Missal one of the things that may have been overlooked is how our response which used to be--- bow your heads and pray for God's blessing--- has changed in the new Missal.

The invitation which is to be said by a Deacon when the deacon is present

Is now-----

“Bow down for the blessing”

So this phrase would be used any time that the priests wishes to do *a prayer over the people* or *a solemn blessing* at the end of the celebration of Mass, or of the Liturgy of the Word, or of the Office, or of the Sacraments.

This rubric may be found in the missal on page 526 under the heading blessings at the end of mass and prayers over the people.

Also dear brothers, it is important that all of us take the time to read the rubrics in the new missal to understand what is and what is not in the missal. We need to understand changes that have taken place between the second edition and the third edition of the Roman Missal. Then we need to make sure that we are following them, and not adding or doing things that the rubrics do not allow for. One such example-- nowhere do the rubrics instruct the Deacon or in his absence the priest to “show the *Book of the Gospels*” to the people at any time. Nor does the rubric call for the Deacon or priest to process with the *Book of the Gospels* held above our head. The rubric actually calls for the book to be held over our hearts. The rubrics only allows for Bishops to show the *Book of the Gospels* to the people and to bless them with the book. Likewise we will find no rubric that calls for the enthronement or the standing up of the gospel book on the altar. The rubric actually calls for the gospel book to be laid upon the altar, which would be flat upon the altar.