

Presiding

The presider is one who leads the assembly in prayer. To this end, he or she pays special attention to the *dynamic* unfolding within the prayer, paces its flow, and “reads” the assembly. By his or her prayerful leading, he or she sets the tone for the whole celebration. If the prayer leader is truly *praying*, chances are that the assembly will more easily be drawn into the liturgy as prayer.

In the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, the celebration of the Eucharist is always presided over by the priest, who is appointed by the bishop. In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, any lay person, who is validly baptized, may lead the community in prayer. Anyone who presides over communal prayer should have the proper training and aptitude to minister as a leader of prayer. *Office of Liturgy*

Characteristics of the Spirituality of the Presider

- Be yourself
- Faith filled and committed
- Faith to the *tradition* of the assembly’s praying
- Open to change and models implementing it
- Reverent, gentle, charitable, prayerful, sense of mystery
- Sense of being member of the assembly
- Attentive to both local and universal Church
- Openness to others, respect for charisms of others, “service” of leadership
- Hospitable but not “homey”; minister *of the Church*
- Knows human limitations and strengths
- Shows energy/vitality
- Comfortable with others; good eye contact
- Has sense of “custody of the tongue”
- Comfortable with different voices, gestures, movements
- Actually *participates* in the celebration
- Never draws attentions to self

Training Offered by the Office of Liturgy

- The Art of Leading Prayer
- Leading the Liturgy of the Hours
- Leading and planning para-liturgies (i.e. prayer groups, Bible studies, etc.)
- Workshops for Priests and Deacons

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