

## OCIA Dismissal Minister

### Ministry Purpose

The OCIA Dismissal Minister accompanies catechumens and candidates who are dismissed following the Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass. This ministry provides a welcoming environment where participants can reflect on the Scriptures they have just heard, share their faith journey, and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. The dismissal period bridges the Sunday liturgy and the ongoing formation they receive during the week.

### Guidelines for Dismissal Ministers

#### Preparation Before Mass

1. Report to the Sacristy: Arrive at least five minutes before Mass begins to:
    - Verify with the sacristan that the dismissal prayer is placed in the presider's or deacon's notebook.
    - Confirm with the presider/deacon that there will be a dismissal.
      - If the numbers do not indicate a dismissal, inform the presider/deacon about the potential cancellation.
    - If there is a blessing, discuss which will come first the blessing or dismissal prayer.
  2. Seating Arrangements:
    - Sit near the Ambo (the place where scripture passages are read formally called the Pulpit).
    - Arrange for a family member or friend to hold your seat if needed.
  3. Mindset:
    - Remember that as a Minister of the Word, you are serving in an official liturgical capacity. Be prayerful and focused.
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## During Mass

### 1. At the Homily's Conclusion:

- Once the presider or deacon steps away from the Ambo:
  - Retrieve the Book of the Gospel from the Ambo.

### 2. Approaching the Ambo:

- Walk with dignity and confidence, even as Mass continues.
- Always hold the Book of the Gospels with reverence:
  - Keep it upright, with the front cover facing outward.
  - Never tuck it under your arm or hold it casually.

### 3. Positioning:

- Stand at the altar-side of the Ambo, ensuring the presider/deacon sees you.
  - If a special blessing is given, wait respectfully until it concludes.
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## The Dismissal Procession

### 1. Calling the Candidates and Catechumens:

- When the presider/deacon invites the group forward, move toward the center of the sanctuary.
- The presider/deacon will read the dismissal prayer.
- Your presence with the Book of the Gospels highlights the liturgical importance of this moment.

### 2. Leading the Procession:

- After the dismissal prayer, hold the Book of the Gospels high and lead the candidates and catechumens down the center aisle in a formal procession. Musicians play, "Take the Word of God.."

### 3. Walking to the Reflection Space:

- Lower the Book of the Gospels after exiting the main assembly, but maintain a reverent demeanor.
- Walk with dignity to the Eremos Chapel, modeling the liturgical nature of the procession.

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## Dismissal Reflection

### 1. Facilitating Reflection:

- Lead the group in reflection using the Lectio Divina format.
- Foster an atmosphere of prayer, discussion, and mutual respect.

### 2. Returning the Book of the Gospels:

- After the Dismissal Prayer time, return the Book of the Gospels to the sacristy.

### 3. Confidentiality and Reporting Concerns:

- Uphold confidentiality for all dismissal participants.
- If a concern arises that requires attention, or if a candidate or catechumen would like more information about the gospel, inform Dawn to ensure proper support is provided.

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## Time Commitment

- Serve approximately once or twice each month (depending on the number of ministers).
- Arrive before the beginning of the assigned Mass.
- Attend a one-hour training session before beginning the ministry.
- Participate in an annual gathering or refresher training, and attend the OCIA team meeting monthly.

## Training and Support

No previous teaching experience is necessary. Training, reflection guides, and ongoing support are provided by the OCIA Team. New ministers may observe an experienced dismissal minister before leading a group on their own.

## Gifts for This Ministry

Those who thrive in this ministry are:

- Hospitable and welcoming
- Good listeners
- Comfortable praying with others
- Respectful of different faith journeys
- Dependable and organized
- Open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit

### The Heart of the Ministry

Dismissal is not a class – it is a sacred conversation. The dismissal minister helps create a space where God’s Word is heard, reflected upon, and connected to daily life. Through prayer, listening, and conversation, dismissal ministers accompany those preparing to receive the sacraments, helping them encounter Christ more deeply and become active members of the Church.