
Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This script was transcribed by the Office of Worship of the Diocese of Dallas (2014) to assist parishes and schools in planning and implementing a worthy celebration of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This service is appropriate for both children and adults. It is advisable to collaborate with the music ministers so that the liturgy is participative and beautiful. Be judicious in selecting readings for this service: we suggest using readings from Marian feast days or solemnities. This service lends itself to any circumstance in which devotion and praise of the Mother of God is needed. It is not limited to the month of May. Recall that October is the month of the Holy Rosary, as another occasion for this Crowning.

I. Introduction

54. “Both in the East and in the West the practice of depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary wearing a regal crown came into use in the era of the Council of Ephesus (AD 431)...It is especially from the end of the 16th century that in the West the practice became widespread for the faithful, both religious and laity, to crown images of the Blessed Virgin” (*see Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 3-4*).

55. This service is intended for parish celebrations in which an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or one with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus, is to be crowned. The rite may be used appropriately as part of May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

56. The service may be led by a priest, deacon, or lay person.

57. If there is to be a procession with the image of Mary, it should be well planned before the celebration begins. Marian hymns may be sung during the procession.

58. When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The minister makes the sign of the cross, saying:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAY

59. The minister invites those present to pray in these words:

Come, let us worship Christ, the Son of Mary.

All respond: Let us give praise and thanks to the Lord
as we keep this day in loving memory of
the Blessed Virgin Mary.

INTRODUCTION

60. The minister introduces the celebration in these or similar words:

My dear brothers and sisters:

We gather today to crown this image of the mother of Jesus (the Virgin Mary and her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ). As we acclaim Mary, the Mother of God, as our queen and as the Mother of the Church, let us imitate her example and be attentive to the Word of God. As we honor Mary, who is higher than the cherubim and yet like us, let us pray that through her intercession we may achieve holiness of life, and a deepened faith, hope, and love, as we seek to do the will of God in all things.

OPENING PRAYER

61. The minister says the opening prayer, after a brief period of silence.

Father,
You have given us the mother of your Son to be our queen and mother.
With the support of her prayers
may we come to share the glory of your children in the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. **All respond:** Amen.

OR (during the Easter season)

Father,
As your Son was raised on the cross,
his mother Mary stood by him, sharing his sufferings.
May your Church be united with Christ in his suffering and death
and so come to share in his rising to new life,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **All respond:** Amen.

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

62. A reader then proclaims the first reading from sacred Scripture. The readings may be chosen from the texts that follow, or from the texts assigned to one of the feasts of Mary.

A reading from the first book of Chronicles. (I Chronicles: 15:3-4, 15-16: 16:1-2)

David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring the ark of the Lord to the place which he had prepared for it. David also called together the sons of Aaron and the Levites. The Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders with poles, as Moses had ordained according to the Word of the Lord.

David commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brethren as chanters, to play on musical instruments, harps, lyres, and cymbals to make a loud sound of rejoicing.

They brought in the ark of God and set it within the tent which David had pitched for it. Then they offered up holocausts and peace offerings to God. When David had finished offering up the holocausts and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

OR (during the Easter season)

A reading from the book of Revelation.

(Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10)

God's temple in heaven opened and in the temple could be seen the ark of his covenant.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Because she was with child, she wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky: it was a huge dragon, flaming red, with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems. His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, ready to devour her child when it should be born. She gave birth to a son—a boy destined to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert, where a special place had been prepared for her by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have salvation and power come, the reign of our God and the authority of his Anointed One.”

The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

63. As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm or some other suitable song may be sung.

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior. (I Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8.)

As Hannah worshiped the Lord, she said:

“My heart exults in the Lord,
My horn is exalted in my God.
I have swallowed up my enemies;
I rejoice in my victory.

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

The bows of the mighty are broken,
while the tottering gird on strength.
The well-fed hire themselves out for bread,
while the hungry batten on spoil.
The barren wife bears seven sons,
while the mother of many languishes.

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

The Lord puts to death and gives life;
he casts down to the nether world;
he raises up again.
The Lord makes poor and makes rich,
he humbles, he also exalts.

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

He raises the needy from the dust;
from the ash heap he lifts up the poor,
To seat them with nobles
and make a glorious throne their heritage.

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

64. One of the following verses is sung before the gospel, along with a sung Gospel acclamation:

Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise; from you rose the sun of justice, Christ the Lord. OR

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God, and pondered it in her heart.

GOSPEL

65. The deacon (or in his absence, the minister) proclaims the Gospel. All stand.
Luke 1:26-28 may be selected, OR during the Easter season John 19:25-27

HOMILY

66. The minister may give those present a brief explanation of the Scripture readings and the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation.

The Rite of Crowning

THANKSGIVING AND INVOCATION

67. After the homily, the minister stands before the image of the Mother of God and alternates saying the prayer of thanksgiving and invocation with the congregation.

Minister: Lord, we bless you, for you are full of mercy and justice:
you humble the proud and exalt the lowly.

All Respond: You gave us the highest example of your divine wisdom
in the mystery of the Word made flesh and of his virgin Mother.

Minister: Your Son, humbled by death, rose glorious at your right hand,
the King of all creation.

All Respond: The Virgin, who acknowledged herself to be a servant,
became the Mother of our Redeemer and of those reborn in her
Son. Now, raised above the angels, she prays for all: the
Queen of mercy and grace.

Minister: Bless us as we crown this image of the Mother of your Son (of
Christ and his Mother).

All Respond: We confess Christ to be the King of creation and call upon
Mary, our Queen. May we walk in their likeness, spending
ourselves for the sake of others. Content with our place in this

life, may we one day hear your voice inviting us to take our place in heaven and receive the crown of victory.

CROWNING

68. The minister or another person places the crown on the image of Mary. If the image is of both Mary and the infant Jesus, the image of Christ is crowned before that of the Virgin Mary. As the image is crowned, an appropriate song is sung.

LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

69. After the crowning, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary is sung or recited. A cantor or other minister sings or recites the invocations, and all respond.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God our Father in heaven
God the Son, Redeemer of the world
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, one God

have mercy on us.
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“
“

Holy Mary
Holy Mother of God
Most honored of Virgins

pray for us.
“
“

Chosen daughter of the Father
Mother of Christ the King
Glory of the Holy Spirit

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Virgin daughter of Zion
Virgin poor and humble
Virgin gentle and obedient

“
“
“

Handmaid of the Lord
Mother of the Lord
Helper of the Redeemer

“
“
“

Full of grace “
Fountain of beauty “
Model of virtue “

Finest fruit of the redemption “
Perfect disciple of Christ “
Untarnished image of the Church “

Woman transformed “
Woman clothed with the sun “
Woman crowned with stars “
Gentle Lady “
Gracious Lady “
Our Lady “

Joy of Israel “
Splendor of the Church “
Pride of the human race “
Advocate of peace “
Minister of holiness “
Champion of God’s people “

Queen of love “
Queen of mercy “
Queen of peace “

Queen of angels “
Queen of patriarchs and prophets “
Queen of apostles and martyrs “
Queen of all saints “

Queen of confessors and virgins “
Queen conceived without original sin “
Queen assumed into heaven “

Queen of all the earth “
Queen of heaven “
Queen of the universe “

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Minister: Pray for us, O glorious Mother of the Lord.

All respond: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The minister concludes the Litany with the following prayer:

God of mercy, listen to the prayers of your servants who have honored your handmaid Mary as mother and queen.

Grant that by your grace, we may serve you and our neighbor on earth and be welcomed into your eternal kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All respond: Amen.

DISMISSAL

70. After the litany, the minister says:

Gracious Lord, with love and devotion we have honored the holy Mother of God. May she continue to intercede for us with Jesus Christ, her Son, now and for ever.

All respond: Amen.

A priest or deacon adds:

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

71. The celebration should end with a song.

In November 1986, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (through the Secretariat of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy) was authorized to prepare devotional Marian resources. *Celebrating the Marian Year* (Minister's edition) was approved for publication by the members of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy on March 23, 1987, and was authorized for publication by Monsignor Daviel F. Hoye, General Secretary, NCCB/USCCB on April 1, 1987.

Celebrating the Marian Year was prepared to assist in celebrating the Marian Year 1987-1988. The ISBN number is 155861520. The publication is out of print, but can be obtained (new or used) on amazon.com.