

RITUAL FOR PRESENTING MEDALS AT MASS

This is an adaptation of the "Order of those Receiving Ecclesiastical Honors" which is found on page 825 of the Book of Blessings. This order is intended for use on occasions when ecclesiastical honors are conferred. The blessing may also be used for the conferral of diocesan and parish honors [par. 1941], which would cover these types of religious awards.

Being that these are religious awards, it is most appropriate that they be presented in a Liturgical setting: during Mass; in a celebration of the word; or during Morning or Evening Prayer.

When presenting at Mass, The Mass of the day is celebrated.

The Blessing takes place after the homily.

Introductory remarks

Priest: Brothers and Sisters, we gather here today to acknowledge and honor these scouts, as we confer upon them the (**name of the medal**) award. This is a Church Award which is given to Scouts in the hopes of encouraging them to continue their personal development in the faith. (**The priest could then describe the theme of the medal and it's requirements.**) The Scriptures remind us that all good gifts come from God, who distributes them as He wills to build up the body of Christ. Let us pray for these scouts who are about to receive these awards, that they would continue to use the gifts God has given them for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Presentation of the Candidates:

Priest: Those who are to receive this award, please come forward.
The Scouts come forward and stand in front of the priest.

[Optional: Questioning of Candidates

Depending on circumstances, there could be a renewal of baptismal promises before presenting the medals, or something more simple like this:

Priest: Scouts, are you committed to live your faith in the Church to the best of your ability?

Scouts: We are.]

Conferral of the Honor:

First, the priest blesses the medals.

Priest: May this medal and the one who uses it be blessed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Or this more formal blessing (page 622, par. 1455 in the Book of Blessings) could be used:

Priest: Blessed be your name, O Lord, you are the font and source of blessing, and you look with delight upon the devout practices of the faithful. Draw near, we pray, to these your servants, and as they use this symbol of their faith and devotion, grant that they may also strive to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

Then the priest confers the medals to the Scouts. He could either pin them on the scouts, or just hand the medals and cards to them.

[Optional: The priest may invite the congregation to show their approval.]

{At this point the Creed could be said, if this was a Sunday Mass or solemnity}

Intercessions with the Blessing upon the Scouts

Priest: Brothers and Sisters, God is the giver of all good gifts; let us call upon him with faith and thanksgiving.

1. For these scouts whom we honor today, that their true reward may be in the kingdom of God; we pray to the Lord.
2. For those who use their talents and gifts for the good of others, that

they may acknowledge God as their source; we pray to the Lord.

3. For all of us, that God may stir up in us the spirit of gratitude and thankfulness; we pray to the Lord.

4. For those in distress, that we respond to their need by sharing what god has given us; we pray to the Lord.

Prayer of Blessing:

Priest: Eternal god, source of every gift and talent, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you grant us your blessings that the Church might be nourished and strengthened. Bless these scouts today, and confer upon them the gifts of your Spirit that they may remain humble in heart as they serve your household the Church. Bring us all into the peace of your kingdom, where all honor and glory are yours, Lord our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Scouts return to their seats. Mass continues with the offertory.