

## The Holy Mystery Of Ordination – An Apostolic Truth Of Our Church!

### I. Introduction

From the origin of the Church, at the Feast Of Pentecost in 33 AD, when the Holy Apostles of our Lord received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, the Mystery of Holy Orders has continued through the practice of the **laying-on of hands** of the Diocesan Bishop (also a Disciple of Christ) to our present day, upon those candidates found worthy to answer the call of our Lord.

Today, we the faithful of the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of McKeesport and Duquesne, are deeply humbled and moved with profound joy to experience this continued perpetuation of our Faith with the celebration of the Ordination of one of our ‘own sons’, **Christopher Stephen Rocknage**, to the rank of Deacon. You will experience this most ancient of rites as our own Bishop, the **Rt. Rev. Dr. MITROPHAN**, invokes the Power of the Holy Spirit upon Christopher during the Holy Divine Liturgy. We have included the basic details of the Rite of Ordination here so that you can follow along, and participate, in this most wondrous of experiences in our Holy Orthodox Faith!

### II. Ordination to the Rank of Sub-Deacon

After the Bishop has been fully vested, Christopher is brought to him; and, after making three prostrations in front of the Bishop, bows his head as the Bishop says the prayer over him. Once this is done, the Bishop then washes his hands, as the new Sub-Deacon gives him the water and the towel. Then, he goes to stand in front of the appropriate Icon, as designated by the Bishop.

### III. Ordination to the Rank of Deacon

After the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, but just before the Litany before the Lord’s Prayer, Christopher is brought by the attendants

to the middle of the Church, where he makes three prostrations facing the Holy Altar, the last one in front of the Royal Doors, facing the Bishop.

He is then led around the Holy Altar (3x), with the Clergy and Choir alternately singing, *“O Holy Martyrs...”*; *“Glory to Thee, O Christ God”*, the second time, and *“Rejoice, O Isaiah...”* the third time.

When this is done, the Christopher kneels in front of the Holy Altar, with the Bishop standing over him...and the Bishop says, *“The Grace Divine, which always heals that which is infirm, and completes that which is found lacking, elevates, through the laying-on of hands, Christopher, the most devout sub-Deacon, to be a Deacon; wherefore, Let us pray for him, that the grace of the all-holy Spirit may come upon him.”*

The Clergy, along with the Choir chant, *“Lord have mercy”* (3x) very softly and slowly, as the Bishop continues to pray over the candidate.

When the prayers are finished, the Bishop will stand Christopher up, and taking the Orarion and placing it on his left shoulder, says in a loud voice, **“AXIOS!” (Worthy!)** The Clergy say and chant, **“AXIOS!”** Then ALL the people and CHOIR say and chant **“AXIOS!”**

The Bishop then gives the new Deacon his cuffs, saying **“AXIOS!”** The Clergy say and chant **“AXIOS!”**; ALL the people and CHOIR say and chant, **“AXIOS!”**

Finally, the Sacramental Fan (Shield) is given to the new Deacon by the Bishop, saying **“AXIOS”**, with the Clergy, Choir and the people responding as before with **“AXIOS!”**

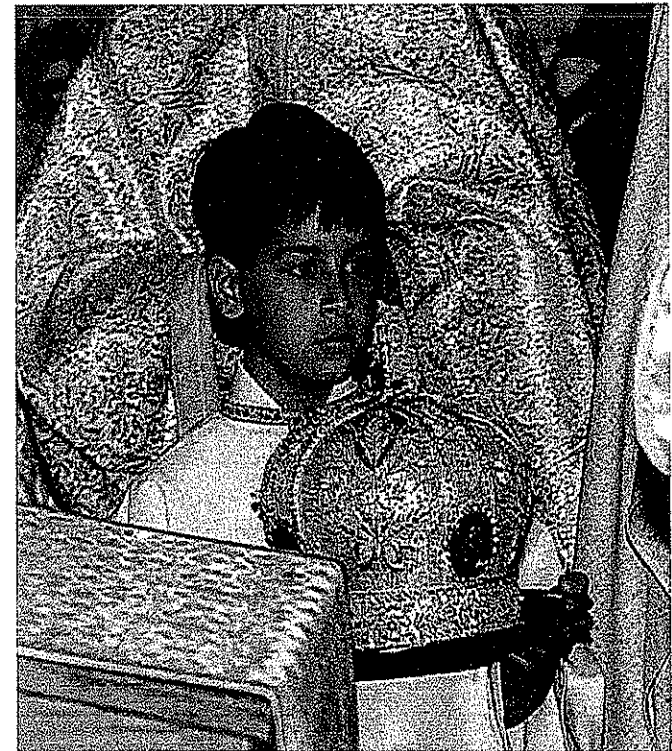
The new Deacon is then led to the Holy Altar where he will stand fanning the Holy Gifts, in preparation of receiving the Holy Eucharist. The rest of the Divine Liturgy proceeds as is customary.

**By The Grace of God, Through The Laying-on  
Of Hands,**

**Christopher Stephen Rocknage**

**On This Joyous and Wonderful Event In The  
Life of our Holy Church, our Diocese, and our Parish,  
Let us all lift up our hearts in prayer and thanksgiving  
for our new “Father Deacon Christopher”, and his  
dear wife, ‘Djakonica’ Andreja – and ask our Lord  
to grant them health, length of days, and many, many  
years of devoted service to our Serbian Orthodox Church!**

**“Ziveli, I Mnogaja Ljeta!”**



**Continues His Service To Our Holy Orthodox Faith  
And Will Be Ordained Into The Holy Diaconate,**

**By His Grace, Our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. MITROPHAN  
At The Holy Divine Liturgy – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!**