

The Diocese of New Jersey

**Guidelines for an Episcopal Visitation
Including Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation**

The Rt. Rev. Sylvestre D. Romero

Visitations are scheduled by arrangement with Mary Ann Rhoads, Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

On Sundays it is my usual practice to make one visit. I am happy to arrange a visit on a weeknight or a Saturday.

I am happy to visit even if there are no Confirmations, Receptions or Reaffirmations to be celebrated on that occasion.

The liturgical color for a visit that includes Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation is red. White is used during Christmastide; on the Epiphany; on the Sunday after the Epiphany; during Eastertide; on Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day and the Sunday after All Saints'. Please check with me re: other Feasts and Holy Days. When there are no Confirmations, Receptions or Reaffirmations, the color of the liturgical season is used.

I welcome the opportunity to review any service outlines, leaflets or booklets, well in advance of the visit. I am willing to observe the local liturgical customs, provided that they fall within the rationale and rubrics of The Book of Common Prayer.

Please notify Mary Ann if you use the Revised Common Lectionary.

I am not comfortable chanting the Collect of the Day, or singing the Sursum Corda, Preface and other portions of the Liturgy.

If Baptism(s) is (are) to be administered as well as Confirmations, please begin the Liturgy on page 299. The Presentation and Examination of the other Candidates follows on page 303. Confirmation, Reception and/or Reception prayers are on page 309.

I prefer to be seated for the administration of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.

It is helpful for Confirmands, those to be Received and those to make a Reaffirmation to be identified by nametag or card and/or announcement by the Presenter.

I support and encourage the practice of having parents, family, sponsors and/or mentors come forward together with the Candidate and to lay hands on the Candidate as I pray. Please plan the logistics of such movement so that the Liturgy does not get bogged down.

In the case of Receptions, it is my practice to extend a hand of welcome for the first sentence (at the bottom of page 418) and to make the sign of the cross and lay on hands for the Blessing that follows.

Please assign someone to read the Prayers for the Candidates, pages 305-306. See direction at the bottom of page 417. Note that the prayer on page 418 (or 309) precedes the Confirmation, Reception and/or Reaffirmation. The concluding prayer is found on page 419 (or 310).

I much prefer to move directly from the concluding prayer on page 419 (310) to the Peace. It is my view that this Liturgy flows better if we do not offer Prayers of the People after the conclusion of the Confirmation Rite. If it is desired to include intercessions, please use Eucharistic Prayer D and note the provision for prayers, on page 375.

In the Celebration of the Eucharist, let me know your local custom re: any special ceremonial practices at the Words of Institution (genuflections, elevations and/or bows). It is also good to know if any of the following are chanted: Memorial Acclamation; the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer; the introduction to the Lord's Prayer; the Lord's Prayer; and/or the Fraction Anthem.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, I am happy to offer the Episcopal Blessing.

The undesignated offering (loose plate) received at Bishop Romero's Visitation is designated for the Assistant Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Please note this designation in the service bulletin. Please send checks made to payable to "Assistant Bishop's Discretionary Fund" to: Bishop's Office, Diocese of New Jersey, 808 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618. Due to an IRS regulation, checks for the Discretionary Fund that are made payable to Bishop Romero personally cannot be deposited into the Discretionary Fund.

If you need certificates: Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation of Faith, and/or Baptism, please contact Ann Notte (e-mail: anotte@newjersey.anglican.org or phone: 877-394-5281, ext. 41) prior to your visit and she will send them to you along with the Official Acts form to be completed and returned to the Diocese within three days after the visitation. Whether you use your own certificates or those supplied by the Bishop's office, the Official Acts form, copy enclosed, must be returned so that the Official Acts can be recorded.

The Rt. Rev. Sylvestre D. Romero
Assistant Bishop
May 2008