



METROPOLITAN CURIA
ARCHDIOCESE OF THE SOUTHWEST

**Policies for the Use of the
Mitre, Biretta, and Zucchetto
in the Archdiocese**

1 March A.D. 2009
In Dominica I Quadragesimae

Mitre

General Rule: Worn while seated and addressing the people. Removed during prayers.

In Solemn Mass:

1. For Processions
2. While seated
3. When going between the throne and anywhere else.
4. During the Lavabo, but removed prior to saying the Gloria Patri
5. During the final blessing
6. Optionally during preaching

In Processions:

1. In all processions in which a cope or chasuble is worn, excepting those of the exposed Blessed Sacrament

In Sacraments:

1. While ordaining.
2. While consecrating the Holy Oils.
3. While confirming.
 - a) It is worn for the questions, as well as during the laying on of hands and the anointing. It is removed for prayers.
4. While conveying the Anointing of the Sick
5. During Baptism
 - a) During the first part of the rite, except during the prayers.
 - b) Removed for the baptism itself.
 - c) Worn for the procession to the font.
6. During the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony, except during the prayers.
(At the Nuptial Mass itself according to the rules for the wearing of the mitre at the mass.)
7. During a funeral at the rites over the body (except during the prayers), during the mass as usual, and if the cope is worn, at the graveside in the same manner as the biretta.

Solemn Choir Dress:

1. Along with a cope for Solemn Matins and Solemn Evensong.
2. Other liturgies outside the mass where the cope is or may be worn.

Types of Mitres:

1. The Precious Mitre is worn only by a Jurisdictional Bishop within their own jurisdiction (or when otherwise authorized). It is not worn during Advent or Lent. (This mitre is jeweled and may at any time be replaced by the Golden Mitre.)

2. The Golden Mitre is worn by all Bishops. It may be used at a Pontifical High Mass from the Arrival of the Bishop at the Throne until the Lavabo, at which point the Precious Mitre is taken.
3. The Simplex Mitre is plain white. It is worn by all Bishops on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and at Masses for the Dead. It is also worn by Bishops when in the presence of a Greater Prelate.
4. Other Mitres may be used that are white and gold or white and red in place of the Golden Mitre.
5. Mitres in liturgical colors are discouraged.

Biretta

General Rule: Worn while seated, removed during prayers and while kneeling. Only worn at liturgy while processing by the officiants or Sacred Ministers; all others carry their birettas.

- In Solemn Mass:*
1. The Sacred Ministers who are not Bishops wear the biretta during the procession, while seated and, preferably, while going back and forth between the sedilia and the altar.
 2. Clergy in choir carry their birettas in the procession, wear it while seated, and take it off while kneeling or standing.
 3. The biretta is removed during the mention of the name of Jesus.
 4. The biretta is touched, but not removed during the mention of the name of the Blessed Virgin.
 5. The biretta is removed prior to the genuflection by the Ministers upon arriving at the altar, at which point it is taken by the server.
 6. The biretta may be worn while preaching and while going to and from the pulpit. It is removed for the prayers before and after the sermon.

- In Low Mass:*
1. The Biretta is worn to the altar and then removed. Unless a reader is used for the Epistle, or another priest is present to deliver the sermon, the biretta is not worn again until the after the altar is revered at the end of the mass.
 2. The Bishop wears the biretta at Low Mass just as a priest.

Transport of Sacred Vessels and of the Enclosed Blessed Sacrament

1. A priest wears the biretta while transporting the Sacred Vessels to the altar. It is removed upon arrival at the altar and given to the server prior to reverencing the altar. If the priest passes the exposed Blessed Sacrament or the elevations during mass, he stops and genuflects, but does not remove the biretta.
2. A Bishop wears the biretta as a priest unless he is vested in a cope, in which case the mitre would be worn.

- Other Liturgy*
1. The Officiant wears the biretta in procession as at mass. All others carry the biretta.
 2. The other rules for the use of the biretta at other liturgy is just as that for mass.

- Sacraments*
1. Optionally, while pronouncing absolution in Confession.
 2. By the Officiant when proceeding to the font for Solemn Baptism.

3. By the Officiant at the graveside portion of a funeral.
 - a) It is removed for the prayers.
 - b) It is removed for the blessing of the grave.

Outside Liturgy

1. The biretta may be worn with house dress, particularly at formal or solemn non-liturgical occasions.
2. It may be worn with academic dress in lieu of the mortarboard or tam.
3. It may be worn while entering and exiting the church.

Colors & Style

1. The biretta of a Priest or Deacon is black.
2. The biretta of a Bishop is Roman purple.
3. The biretta of a Canon, Dean, or Archdeacon may have an optional red or Roman purple trim and tuft.
4. The biretta shall have three wings, except for the academic biretta of a Doctor, which may optionally have four wings.
5. The academic biretta, which may only be worn at academic functions, may have a tuft and trim in the academic color of the highest degree held.

Zucchetto

At Mass

1. Only Bishops may wear the zucchetto during the mass.
2. It is removed before the Dominus vobiscum immediately preceding the Sursam Corda, and is not replaced until after the ablutions.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1. The zucchetto is removed at any time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar.
2. The zucchetto is not worn during a procession involving the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

Outside Mass

1. All Bishops, Priests, and Deacons may wear the zucchetto outside the mass. This includes Divine Offices and other prayer or liturgical functions, except those involving the exposed Blessed Sacrament.
2. The zucchetto for Priests and Deacons is black.
3. The zucchetto for Bishops is Roman purple.
4. The zucchetti of Canons, Deans, and Archdeacons may have optional red or Roman Purple trim.