

What about the Bishop?

Order of Hierarchy

The order of hierarchy, beginning with the so-called minor orders and going up the ladder:

- a. Lector or reader
- b. Sub-deacon
- c. Deacon
- d. Priest
 - o then honorary titles
 - Archpriest - Highest
 - a. highest honor given to a married priest.
 - b. Wears the silver pectoral cross and is called "The Right Reverend".
 - Archimandrite
 - a. Wears the silver pectoral cross and is called "The Right Reverend".
- e. Bishop
- f. Archbishop (sometimes Metropolitan Archbishop)
- g. Patriarch

Role of the Bishop

The Bishop of an eparchy (or diocese) is the head of the Church. As Saint Ignatius of Antioch stated in the First century: Where the Bishop is – there is the Catholic Church. This means that each local Church embodies the universal Church. The Bishop is the successor of the Apostles in our midst, appointed by God to head the Church as its high priest. Thus, the Bishop is the representative of Christ in our midst and, as such, fulfills the three-fold ministry of Christ: Prophet, Priest, & King.

The Bishop's **Prophetic** role is that of teacher. Ex. Teaching the flock during the Homily.

The Bishop's **Priestly** role is that of high priest and the chief shepherd for our Church. Ex. Celebrating the Divine Liturgy.

The Bishop's **Kingly** role is that of Christ the King, ruling by service. Ex. Serving the flock by asking God to bless the flock.

The three roles are illustrated in the vestments of the Bishop.

The Bishop's **Ruler** role is shown by the crown.

The Bishop's **Guardian** role is shown by the shepherd's staff.

The Bishop's **Guide** role is shown by the bells on the Saccos. The bells call us to follow the Bishop.

The Bishop's prophetic role is that of Teacher, proclaiming the Gospel to the People of God and applying it to the needs of our community and of our world. His priestly role is that of high priest for our Church: presiding over the Eucharist and the Holy Mysteries through the pastors and priests ordained and appointed by him as custodians of the Sacred Mysteries. His kingly

role is that of Christ the King: ruling not by dominion, but by service. He is the “servant of the servants of God.”

When the Bishop is in our midst, the Church is truly a family with its head and Father. This is illustrated dramatically in the celebration of the pontifical Divine Liturgy as the Bishop in the full vestments of the priesthood, celebrates, serves and teaches the flock, asking God to bless “this vineyard” which His right hand has planted.

Pontifical Divine Liturgy

When a Bishop / Sayedna / Sayidna says [the Divine Liturgy](#), the Divine Liturgy is called a "Pontifical Divine Liturgy".

Candles during a Pontifical Divine Liturgy

During the singing of [the Trisagion Hymn](#), the Bishop / Sayedna / Sayidna, holding two candlesticks blesses the assembled Church, asking God to "look down from heaven and see: bless this vineyard which your right hand has planted" or "nurture this vineyard" which He has planted by His own hand".

How do you greet the Bishop?

It is customary to greet the Bishop by asking for his blessing and **kissing his hand**. This human hand is the instrument of God’s blessing, the bearer of Good News, the hand that is laid upon the heads of those God has called to serve as deacons & priests, the hand that offers to us the spotless Body and precious Blood of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. **It is also customary to address him as “Sayedna” which means Master, or Teacher. How do you greet the Bishop?**

The above was taken from: <http://www.mliles.com/melkite/bishops.shtml>

BISHOP NICHOLAS



Born in Paterson, N.J., the Most Rev. Nicholas James Samra (1944-) was ordained a priest of the Eparchy of Newton. He served in several parishes and eparchial posts before his election as auxiliary bishop in 1989. He was elected our fifth eparchial bishop in 2011.

The above was taken from: www.Melkite.org

The below was taken from: Wikipedia

On Friday, January 16, 2015, he was appointed by Pope Francis to serve also as Apostolic Administrator of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Nuestra Señora del Paraíso in Mexico City, which has Mexico City as its headquarters; he will serve in the wake of the death of the former eparch there until a permanent successor can be named, while retaining his duties as Eparch of Newton, in the U.S.[†]

Biography

Early life and priesthood[

Samra was born in Paterson, New Jersey to George H. Samra and Elizabeth Balady Samra. His grandparents and his father were immigrants to the United States from Aleppo, Syria. He was ordained a priest for the Eparchy of Newton on May 10, 1970 and served as a pastor in Melkite parishes in Los Angeles, Chicago and New Jersey. Bishop Samra earned the B.A. at Saint Anselm College, Goffstown, New Hampshire, and a B.D. from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts.

Episcopate[

On April 21, 1989, Pope John Paul II appointed Samra Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Newton and Titular Bishop of Gerasa. Archbishop Joseph Tawil consecrated and installed him on July 6 of that year.



Bishop Nicholas Samra at Annunciation Melkite Catholic Cathedral, January 2012

Samra served as Auxiliary Bishop and Protosyncellus until he retired on January 11, 2005 to devote himself to scholarly work.^[2]

In June 2011, the Synod of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church nominated him as Eparch of Newton to succeed Archbishop Cyril Salim Bustros, and Pope Benedict XVI appointed him to the position on June 15, 2011.^{[3][4]}

An active speaker and author, Samra has written extensively on the subject of ecumenism, Christian leadership and stewardship. He has also published a multi-volume history of the Melkite Church and a book on the legacy of Archbishop Joseph Tawil. He is the past president of the Eastern Catholic Association of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Scholarly Work

In October 2014, Samra presented "Eastern Catholicism in the Middle East Fifty Years after Orientalium ecclesiarum" at the conference "The Vatican II Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches, Orientalium ecclesiarum - Fifty Years Later" organized by the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies held at the University of Toronto.^[5]