



Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

CCBI General Secretariat, 9-10, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi-110 001, India

Mob: +91-9686110810, 9632381810

Email: secretariat@ccbi.in | Website: www.ccbi.in

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Naming the Pope and the Bishop in the Eucharistic Prayer

Your Eminence/Grace/Excellency/Monsignor,

In the Roman Missal, the Pope and Bishop are commemorated in the Eucharistic Prayer as "*N., our Pope,*" and "*N., our Bishop.*" "N," of course, stands for "Name" (*Nomen*). Our allegiance to the Lord Jesus, through the Pope and our Bishop, cannot be reduced to an abstraction, concept, or idea, but the actual "N" who holds that office. Accordingly, we express that we are in union with **Leo, our Pope**, and **Peter, our Bishop**. For the sake of uniformity, it is recommended that we name the Pope as **Leo**, and not with the **translations** of a particular language.

In naming the Pope, it is customary only to mention the Pope's name (currently Leo), **leaving out the numeral** (XIV) and in mentioning Bishops, to omit titles such as archbishop, excellency, eminence, and cardinal before the name but merely use the word "Bishop" followed by his **first name** rather than the **last name** or **the surname**.

GIRM n. 149 specifies the manner of naming a Bishop in the Eucharistic Prayer when it is recited by a Bishop: If the Bishop celebrates in his own diocese, after the words *N... our Pope*, he adds *and me, your unworthy servant*. If, however, the Bishop is celebrating outside his own diocese, after the words with *N..., our Pope*, he adds, *my brother N., the Bishop of this Church, and me, your unworthy servant.*

The Diocesan Bishop or one who is equivalent to the Diocesan Bishop in law, must be mentioned by means of this formula: *together with your servant N., our Pope, and N., our Bishop (or Vicar, Prelate, Prefect, Abbot).*

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PRESIDENT

H.E. Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao
Archbishop of Goa and Daman
Archbishop's House, Altinho
Panaji - 403 001, Goa
Tel.: +91-832-2433600, 2433610
E-mail: archbpgoa@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Most Rev. Peter Machado
Archbishop of Bangalore
Archbishop's House, Bangalore-560 046
Karnataka, India
Tel: +91-80-23330438, 9008556258
Email: vicepresident@ccbi.in

SECRETARY GENERAL

Most Rev. Vincent Aind
Archbishop of Ranchi
Archbishop's House, Ranchi - 834 001
Jharkhand, India
Mob: +91-9006437066
Email: ranchiarchdiocese@gmail.com

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara
CCBI General Secretariat
9-10, Bhai Vir Singh Marg
New Delhi-110 001, India
Mob: +91-9686110810, 9632381810
Email: secretariat@ccbi.in



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With regard to the question of those who *may be named* in the Eucharistic prayer, it is said: "It is permitted to mention Coadjutor and Auxiliary Bishops in the Eucharistic Prayer, but not other Bishops who happen to be present at the celebration. When several are to be named, this is done with the collective formula *N., our Bishop and his assistant Bishops*" (GIRM 149). In other words, if there is more than one auxiliary, they may be mentioned collectively and not named separately.

Other Bishops, such as the Bishop emeritus residing in the diocese -- who may preside or concelebrate or be present at Mass -- or any other presiding or concelebrating Bishops who do not come under the categories stated in GIRM n. 149 are not to be mentioned, even though they may be cardinals or nuncios. No other Bishop or Bishops are to be mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer, even if they happen to preside or assist at the Eucharistic celebration.

In conclusion, commemoration of the Pope and of the Bishop in the Eucharistic Prayer constitutes an obligation. It signifies communion and unity of the whole assembly with the Roman Pontiff and the proper Bishop. The mention of Episcopal collaborators (Coadjutor and Auxiliary Bishops), either individually or generically, is optional or *facultative*. Any Priest who deliberately avoids this commemoration of the Pope and proper Bishop does harm to the meaning of priesthood and the celebration of the Eucharist. He should be aware that the Eucharistic celebration should lead him towards reconciliation and unity.

+ Peter Paul Saldanha

Chairman, CCBI Commission for Liturgy
Bishop of Mangalore