

Tridentine Community News

September 25, 2022 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Kinds of Birettas and Clerical Head Coverings



In the Tridentine Mass, priests process to and from the sanctuary wearing a head covering. Some religious order priests, including Dominicans [pictured] and our own local Franciscans of the Holy Spirit, pull up hoods or cowls that are part of their albs or habits over their heads.

Most other clergy wear one of the distinctive hats known as birettas. You may have noticed different kinds of birettas worn by our various celebrants.

Most commonly seen is a black biretta with three fins and a black pom. This is the normative head covering for diocesan priests and the default choice for clergy who do not have a distinctive biretta type of their own.

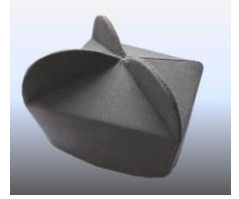


Norbertine priests wear white birettas, which come in various styles, with three or four fins, and with and without poms. It appears that the version without the pom is more common.



Claretian priests and Institute of Christ the King priests wear black birettas with a blue pom, with and without piping, respectively.

Jesuits wear a black biretta with no pom. Locally, Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ wears this type.



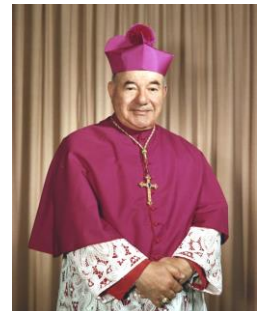
Oratorians, i.e. priests belonging to an Oratory of St. Philip Neri, wear a black biretta with a stem instead of a pom.

An academic biretta is worn by a priest with a doctoral degree from a pontifical university. It has four fins instead of the usual three. The late Fr. Louis Madey, a professor at Orchard Lake Seminary, used to wear an academic biretta.



A monsignor wears a black biretta with a red or fuchsia pom, sometimes with fuchsia piping. Locally, Msgr. Ronald Browne wears one of these.

A bishop wears a biretta of the color amaranth, a reddish-rose hue similar to fuchsia.



A cardinal wears a scarlet red biretta with a stem.

Holy Family Detroit Weekday Mass Pause

There will be no 12:00 Noon Masses at Holy Family, Detroit through Wednesday, October 5. Monday-Wednesday-Friday noon Masses will resume on Friday, October 7.