

Dear Friends of the Catholic Restoration:

Thank you for your interest in the revival of the use of traditional vestments.

Whether you are furnishing an existing church, or preparing for one in the future, I hope these patterns and instructions will help you with your endeavor.

The history of vestments and their usage can be found in the Catholic Encyclopedia on the Internet, by looking up each vestment by name.

### Basic Information

Though vestments may look elaborate, they require only basic machine sewing skills. Care in cutting out and neat stitching are the most important elements. A sturdy work surface is helpful for supporting the weight of larger vestments while sewing.

### Materials

Traditional vestment fabrics and embellishments *are* expensive. But with proper care, a set should give years, or even decades, of use. A source for all vestment materials that I recommend is:

CM Almy  
PO Box 2628  
Greenwich, CT 06836-2628  
1-800-225-2569  
1-800-426.2569 (fax)  
almyaccess@almy.com (e-mail)

Call or write for their free catalogue.

If ecclesiastical supply houses are beyond your means, there are other sources. One solution is to order only orphreys, appliques and fringes from the supplier and to use fabrics from local sources. Polyester or poly/cotton brocades, bengalines or bengaline moires are all good choices and come in a wide array of appropriate colors. Because they are relatively stiff fabrics, the bengalines are more suited to the Roman, than the Gothic, chasuble. Bridal and formal fabric stores often have suitable materials. Check the advertising pages of magazines like *Sew News* or *Threads* or the Internet for other sources.

### About the Patterns

These patterns are drawn on graph paper and are to be copied on pattern fabric with a 1" grid. (Pattern fabric is a translucent non-woven fabric, marked with a printed 1" square grid. It is usually stored with the interfacings in fabric stores.)

Please note that the Gothic chasuble and dalmatic and tunicle patterns have extensions that must be added to the bottom edges of the patterns. Also please note that though the front and back of these vestments are identical, markings on the pattern indicate the cutting line for the front necks, which are lower than the back necks.

A medium stitch length works best for these garments. Increase stitch length when sewing through multiple layers of fabrics. Seam allowance information is included on the patterns. If sewing pieces cut on the selvages, remember to clip the selvages before pressing open the seams.

Vestment fabrics are usually silk or synthetics. Press on the appropriate heat setting and use a pressing cloth.

Hang chasubles on wooden suit hangers, when allowing the bias to settle.

Ideally, vestments should be laid flat for storage. If this is not possible, they should be hung on wooden suit hangers. The stole, maniple and chalice veil can be hung underneath on the pants bar. The burse can be stored in a plastic zip-lock bag hung from the neck of the hanger. Use a garment bag when transporting your vestments.

## Chalice Veil

Fabric: cut 1 (piece together along center front seam, if needed)

Lining: cut 1

1. Center orphrey vertically along center front of veil. Stitch.  
(Applique: Center applique on veil and hand stitch in place.)
2. With wrong sides together, pin lining to veil fabric. Stitch, leaving a 5" opening along one edge to turn.
3. Grade seam allowances, turn and press. Slip-stitch opening closed.

## Stole or Maniple

(Construction of these two pieces are almost identical. The sides of the vestments are constructed first, then sewn together at the neck (wrist) seam.)

Fabric: cut 2 (Brocades: match pattern from bottom edge)

Lining: cut 2

Interfacing: (optional) cut 2 or cut to fit area under orphrey

Orphrey: cut as per chosen pattern. **Maniple:** may use orphrey on only one side, if preferred.

Small (1-1 1/2") applique cross (Stole)

12" of 3/8" wide elastic (Maniple)

1. Optional interfacing: Trim interfacing seam allowances to 1/4". Fuse or baste interfacing to wrong side of fabric.
2. Position orphreys on fabric. Stitch.
3. Attach fringe or tassels (optional)
  - a) **Fringe, with woven edge enclosed in bottom seam:**  
On lining, press seam allowance to wrong side along bottom edge.  
Baste woven edge of fringe to raw edge of bottom, with lower woven edge of fringe along seam allowance. (Fringe will be towards neck of stole.)  
Stitch fringe to fabric. Press woven edge of fringe and seam allowance towards neck of stole
  - b) **Fringe, with woven edge on top of stole:**  
On lining, press seam allowance to wrong side along bottom edge.  
On right side of fabric, place fringe with lower edge of the woven section along seam allowance of bottom edge.  
Stitch along both woven edges of fringe.  
Press seam allowance of bottom edge to wrong side of fabric.
  - c) **Tassels**  
On lining, press seam allowance to wrong side along bottom edge.  
With top of tassels slightly below seam line, pin tassels in place along bottom edge.  
Baste tassels by hand or by machine, using a zipper foot.  
Stitch tassels in place, using a zipper foot.  
Press seam allowance of bottom edge to wrong side of fabric.
4. With right sides together, pin lining to stole along sides, leaving neck and bottom edges open  
Stitch and grade seam allowances.  
Turn stole through bottom openings and press along side seams.

5. Slip stitch fabric and lining together along bottom edges of stole.
6. With right sides together, pin stole side pieces together at neck edge of fabric. Stitch. Press seam open. Turn under seam allowances of lining and slip stitch together along neck seam.

**Stole:** embroider or applique a small cross at neck seam of stole.

**Maniple:** Cut a piece of 3/8" elastic long. Overlap the ends 1/2" and stitch together. Sew this elastic loop to the lining of the maniple at the center of the wrist seam. Some priests prefer the sides of the maniple to be tacked together at a point along the sides. Consult your clergy for their preference.

### **Stole Protector**

The stole protector is useful for preventing excessive wear along the inner neck edge of the stole.

12 1/2" x 4 1/2" piece of white linen, cotton, or cotton/linen blend  
1/2 yd. narrow lace or tatted edging

- 1) Fold fabric in half lengthwise (12 1/2" x 2 1/4"), right sides together. Stitch along one end and long side with a 1/4" seam. Trim corner.
- 2) Turn and press. Turn in seam allowances on open end and slip stitch closed.
- 3) Trim sewn edges with lace edging, if desired.
- 4) Fold protector in half, and center over inner neck edge of stole. Tack loosely in place at ends and at 4" intervals along long edge.

Two protectors per stole allows you to change them for laundering.

### **Gothic Chasuble**

From fabric cut: 2 fronts, 2 backs, if piecing for width **OR**  
1 front, 1 back on fold

(Brocades: match pattern across front and back pieces at center front and center back seam and at shoulders)

From lining cut: 1 front, 1 back

Stay tape for fabric shoulder seams

Optional neck cording: 3/4 yds. 1/4" cotton cording

Bias strip of fabric, 1 3/4" x 3/4 yd.

1. Sew center front and center back seams of fabric, if necessary. Press seams open. Stay stitch front and back neck edges. If front and back are single pieces of fabric, mark center front and center back at neck and bottom edges.
2. Arrange orphreys on fabric. Pin and stitch along orphrey edges. (If using appliques, apply at this point.)
3. Sew fabric front and back together at shoulder seams. Center stay tape over shoulder seams and stitch again. Press seams open.
4. Optional neck cording: With right side out, center and pin fabric bias strip over cotton cording, with raw edges even. Using a zipper foot, sew as close to cording as possible.

Beginning at one shoulder seam, pin cording to neck edges, having raw edges even. Overlap cording at first shoulder seam. Stitch, using a zipper foot. Clip seam allowances and press towards wrong side.

5. Stay stitch neck edges of front and back lining. Mark center front and center back at neck and bottom edges.

6. Sew front and back lining pieces together at shoulder seams. Press seams open.

7. Clip neck seam allowances to stay stitching and press towards wrong side of lining. Hand baste in place.

7. With right sides together, pin fabric and lining together along sides and bottom, matching shoulder seams and center front and backs. Stitch.

8. Grade seam allowances, clip seam allowances on curves. Turn right side out and press lining to back.

9. Pin lining to neck at shoulders and center front and back. Hang for 24 hours to allow fabric to stretch.

10. Adjusting for any stretch, pin lining to chasuble at neck edge and slip stitch in place.

## **Roman (Fiddleback) Chasuble**

From fabric cut: 1 front, 1 back (Brocades: match pattern from bottom edge)

From lining cut: 1 front, 1 back

From interlining cut: 1 front, 1 back

1. Baste interlining to wrong side of fabric front and fabric back along edges and along center front and back.

2. Position orphreys on fabric. Pin and stitch.

3. With right sides together, pin back lining to back. Stitch side and neck seams, leaving shoulder seams open. Grade seam allowances and clip seam allowances on curves. Turn right side out and press lining to back. Baste lining to fabric at shoulder seams. (If using narrow braid to trim back neck edge, apply at this point, sewing through all layers.)

4. Press seam allowance at top edge of front lining to wrong side. With right sides together, pin front lining to front. Stitch around front, leaving top edge open. Grade seam allowances and clip allowances on curves. Turn right side out and press lining to back.

5. With right sides together, keeping front lining free, pin shoulder edges of back to top edge of front. Stitch. Press seam towards front. Pin lining over seam line and slip stitch in place.

## **Burse**

From fabric cut: 1 front, 1 back

From lining cut: 1 front, 1 back

Artist's mat board: 2 squares cut 1/8" smaller than finished size of burse

(Optional) 2 1/4" yds. rat tail cording for burse edge

1. Position orphrey on burse front. Pin and stitch in place.

2. With right sides together, pin front to back along left edge. Stitch. Press seam open.
3. Press seam allowance on one side edge of each lining piece to back.
4. With right sides together, pin lining pieces to burse so that folded seam allowances on lining meet at center fabric seam. Stitch around burse. Trim corners. Turn right side out and press lining to back.
5. Insert mat board into pockets formed by fabric and lining. Trim to fit, if necessary, so that burse can be easily closed.
6. Slip stitch lining edges together inside burse.
7. (Optional) Sew rat tail cording along outside edges of burse by hand.

## Dalmatic and Tunicle

(Construction of these vestments is identical, except for the placement of orphreys.)

From fabric cut: 1 front, 1 back (Brocades: match pattern at shoulder)

From lining cut: 1 front, 1 back

Optional neck cording: 1 yd. 1/4" cotton cording

Bias strip of fabric 1 3/4" by 27 "

Seam tape

1. Stay stitch all neck edges.
2. Position orphreys on fabric, pin and stitch.
3. Sew front and back of fabric together at shoulder seams. Stitch again, centering seam tape over seams. Press seams open.
4. *Optional neck cording: Following the directions under Gothic Chasuble, step 4., make neck cording and attach to neck seam.*
5. Sew front and back together at side seams, leaving open below large dot. Clip seam allowance at dot and at underarms. Press seams open. Press seam allowances at sleeve hems to wrong side.
6. Sew front and back linings together at shoulder seams. Sew front and back linings together at side seams, leaving open below large dot. Clip seam allowance at large dot and at underarms. Press all seams open. Press lining to wrong side at sleeve hems, the measure of seam allowance plus 1/8".
7. With right sides together, pin fabric to lining along bottom and open side edges, matching large dots. Stitch, trim corners and turn right side out.
8. Press lining to back and baste lining to sleeve hems, matching shoulder and underarm seams. Slip stitch lining in place.
9. Pin lining to fabric at shoulder seams. Hang garment for 24 hours, to allow fabric to stretch.
10. Adjusting for stretch, pin lining to fabric at neck edges and slip stitch in place.

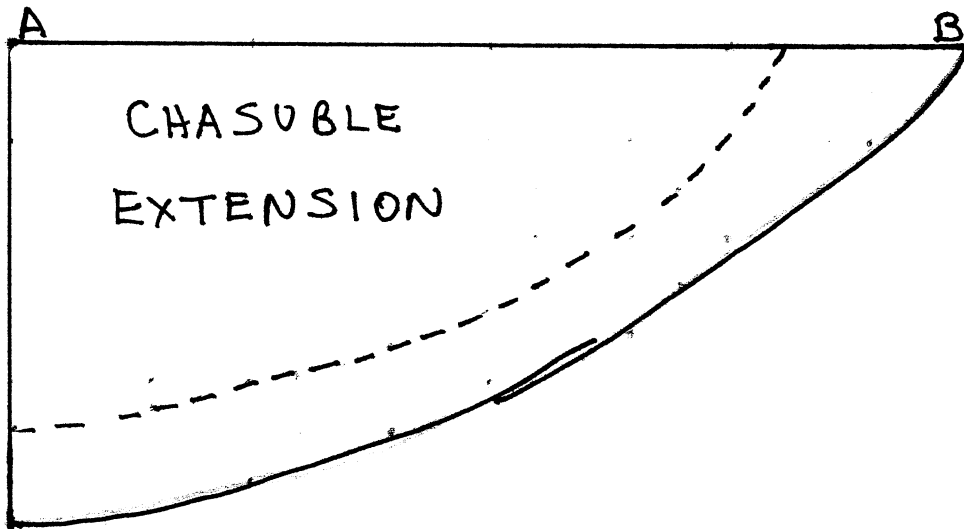
1 square = 1"

FRONT NECK

# GOTHIC CHASUBLE\*

## FRONT + BACK

add  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowances



CHASUBLE  
EXTENSION

cut 1 FRONT (or 2, if seamed)  
cut 1 BACK (or 2, if seamed)

\* This is a very ample chasuble  
Trace on dotted lines for a  
less full vestment

A ADD EXTENSION HERE B

DALMATIC + TUNICHE  
continuance

B

BURSE  
cut 2



1 square = 1"

CHALICE  
VEIL  
cut 1



add 5/8"  
seam allowance



----- FRONT NECKLINE

DALMATIC + TUNICHE  
FRONT + BACK

center front + back

add 5/8" seam allowance

1 square = 1"

A ----- B

see continuance on next page

1 square = 1"   
 add 5/8" seam allowances

