

Washing of the Hands

before Mass

*Da, Domine, virtutem manibus meis
ad abstergendum omnem maculam ut sine
pollutione mentis et corporis valeam tibi servire.*

Give virtue to my hands, O Lord,
that being cleansed from all stain,
I might serve you with purity of mind and body.

Amen.

At the beginning of his vesting he washes his hands, reciting an appropriate prayer; beyond the practical hygienic purpose, this act has a profound symbolism, inasmuch as it signifies passage from the profane to the sacred, from the world of sin to the pure sanctuary of the Most High. *(Liturgical Vestments and the Vesting Prayers, Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff, 2010)*