

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS AS ADAPTED FOR USE IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING

INTRODUCTION

On the following pages, one will find the ritual text for the Rite of Confirmation within Mass.¹ It is provided here so that one can more fully prepare the parish confirmation liturgy. This version contains adapted texts and specific instructions for Confirmation liturgies celebrated in the Diocese of Lansing

Use it as a companion to the diocesan “Guideline for Preparing the Confirmation Liturgy” and the helpful guide, “How to Assist the Bishop at Confirmation.” Both are found on our website, www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship.

This text may also be used on those occasions when the bishop’s delegate will preside at Confirmation or in the rare case (due to an emergency or inclement weather) when a pastor will preside at the confirmation liturgy (see RC 50-51). The text is provided here to assist in such cases.²

Office of Worship
August 20, 2009

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¹ The Roman Pontifical: The Rite of Confirmation, © 2006, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. English translation of the Rite of Confirmation © 1975, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. Rubrics adapted here.

² For the Rite of Confirmation that is integral to the Rite of Reception into Full Communion, please see RCIA 487-498 and National Statutes for the Catechumenate, no.35.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

21. After the gospel, the bishop with mitre and crosier, moves directly to the top of the main aisle.

The pastor approaches the microphone to present the candidates for Confirmation. When more than one parish is participating in the liturgy, each pastor presents his candidates.

Pastor: Candidates for confirmation, please stand.

**Bishop, I am pleased to present to you
the candidates from ___ parish.**

If possible, each candidate is called by name. If there are many candidates, they are not called by name, but simply stand in their pews.

Bishop: Father ____,
have they been prepared and are they ready
to receive this sacrament?

Pastor: *in these or similar words:*
These candidates have prepared for Confirmation
by participating in the sacramental life of the Church,
by meditating on the word of God,
by attending religion classes,
by participating in a retreat and other activities,
and by demonstrating Christian service.

They have found strength in God's grace
and support in our community's prayer and example.
Now they ask to be confirmed
and, after consultation with their teachers and parents,
I testify that they are ready.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS

The bishop turns toward the assembly. He invites the sponsors to stand.

Bishop: My dear sponsors,
the Christian life
and the demands that flow from the sacraments
are not to be taken lightly.
Therefore, before granting these candidates
their request to receive the sacrament of confirmation,
it is important that the Church also hear
the testimony of their sponsors
who have journeyed with them.

Are these candidates ready to be confirmed today?

Sponsors: They are.

AFIRMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

The bishop speaks to the assembly.

Bishop: I ask you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:
Should these, our brothers and sisters, be confirmed today?

Assembly: Yes.

CANDIDATES' DECLARATION OF INTENT

Bishop: My dear candidates,
your pastor, sponsors, families and fellow parishioners
have testified on your behalf.
Are you ready now to receive the sacrament of confirmation?

Candidates: I am.

The candidates, sponsors, and pastors are seated.

HOMILY OR INSTRUCTION

22. The bishop then gives a brief homily. He explains the readings and so leads the candidates, their sponsors and parents, and the whole assembly to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

23. After the homily the candidates stand the bishop questions them:

**Do you reject Satan and all his works
and all his empty promises?**

The candidates respond together:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth?**

Candidates:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Candidates:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who came upon the apostles at Pentecost
and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?**

Candidates:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

Candidates:

I do.

The bishop confirms their profession of faith by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

**This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The whole congregation responds:

Amen.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

24. ... The bishop faces the people and with hands joined, sings or says:

**My dear friends:
in Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life
to his chosen sons and daughters.
Let us pray to our Father
that he will pour out the Holy Spirit
to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts
and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a short time.

The bishop alone extends hands over the candidates and says the prayer. No one else in the assembly extends hands, nor do any concelebrating priests extend hands.

25. The bishop sings or says:

**All-powerful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their Helper and Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

26. The deacon or priest brings the chrism to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop, or the bishop may go to the individual candidates. The one who presented the candidate [sponsor] places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop; or the candidate may give his own name.

27. The bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly confirmed responds:

Amen.

The bishop says:

Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed responds:

And with your spirit.

There should always be two candidates in front of the bishop at all times, with the sponsors always directly behind the candidate.

It is preferable that there be silence during the entire anointing since we are invoking the Holy Spirit. However, soft instrumental music may be played to accompany a lengthy procession of candidates.

When he offers the gesture of peace, Bishop Boyea will not shake the hand of each candidate, but will lightly touch each one on the left cheek with the palm of his hand.

After all have been confirmed, the Bishop washes his hands. Lemon quarters, a pitcher of water, a basin, and a towel are presented by the servers. Then these items are removed.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

30. The intercessions follow, in this or similar form.

Bishop:

**My dear friends:
let us be one in prayer to God our Father
as we are one in the faith, hope, and love his Spirit gives.**

Deacon or minister:

**For these sons and daughters of God,
confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,
that they give witness to Christ
by lives built on faith and love:
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For their parents and godparents
who led them in faith,
that by word and example they may always encourage them
to follow the way of Jesus Christ:
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the holy Church of God,
in union with N. our pope, Earl our bishop, and all the bishops,
that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit,
may help us grow in unity of faith and love
until his Son returns in glory:
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For all people of every race and nation,
that they may acknowledge the one God as Father,
and in the bond of common brotherhood
seek his kingdom,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit:
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

**God our Father,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles,
and through them and their successors
you give the Spirit to your people.
May his work begun at Pentecost
continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R/. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

31. After the General Intercessions the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass with these exceptions:

- a) the Profession of Faith is omitted, since it has already been made;
- b) some of the newly confirmed may join those who bring the gifts to the altar;
- c) When Eucharistic Prayer I is used, the special form of Father, accept this offering is said. (See *Sacramentary: Ritual Masses, Confirmation*, no. 4.)

CONCLUDING RITE

If there are any announcements, they are made at this time.

GREETING AND PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

33. Instead of the solemn blessing at the end of Mass, Bishop Boyea prefers to use the Prayer over the People.

Bishop: **The Lord be with you.**
All: **And with your spirit.**

The deacon gives the invitation:

Deacon: **Bow down for the blessing.**

The bishop extends his hands over the people and sings or says:

Bishop: **God our Father,
complete the work you have begun
and keep the gifts of your Holy Spirit
active in the hearts of your people.
Make them ready to live his Gospel
and eager to do his will.
May they never be ashamed
to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified
living and reigning forever and ever.**
All: **Amen.**

The bishop adds immediately:

Bishop: **And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you forever.**
All: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon: **Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.**
All: **Thanks be to God.**