

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.

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.

Occasionally, the Bishop will delegate a vicar to preside at confirmation. In the case of a rare emergency or inclement weather, a pastor may preside at the confirmation liturgy (see RC 50-51). The text is provided here to assist in such cases.²

Office of Worship
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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.

THE ROMAN PONTIFICAL:
THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

CHAPTER 1
RITE OF CONFIRMATION
WITHIN MASS

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

21. After the gospel the bishop ...takes his seat. The pastor or another priest, deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for Confirmation, according to the custom of the region.

If possible, each candidate is called by name and comes individually to the sanctuary. If the candidates are children, they are accompanied by one of their sponsors or parents and stand before the celebrant. If there are very many candidates, they are not called by name, but simply take a suitable place before the bishop.

HOMILY OR INSTRUCTION

22. The bishop then gives a brief homily. He should explain the readings and so lead 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,
was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead,
and is now 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.

For *This is our faith*, some other formula may be substituted, or the community may express its faith in a suitable song.

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 is gifts
and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a short time.

25. The bishop ... lays hands upon all the candidates (by extending his hands over them). 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.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

R/. Amen.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

26. The deacon 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 also with you.

[28. If priests assist the bishop in conferring the sacrament, all the vessels of chrism are brought to the bishop by the deacon or by other ministers. Each of the priests comes to the bishop, who gives him a vessel of chrism.

The candidates go to the bishop or to the priests, or the bishop and priests may go to the candidates. The anointing is done as described above (no. 27).]

29. During the anointing a suitable song may be sung. After the anointing the bishop ...washes his hands. [In the Diocese of Lansing, the Bishop prefers silence or soft instrumental music during the anointing.]

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

30. The General Intercessions follow, in this or a 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, N. 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 men,
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.
We ask this 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

The rite of dismissal takes place.

Facing the people, the bishop extends his hands and sings or says:

The Lord be with you.

The people answer:

And also with you.

BLESSING

The deacon or minister gives the invitation in these or similar words:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

SOLEMN BLESSING

33. Instead of the usual blessing at the end of Mass, the following Blessing or Prayer over the People is used. [Bishop Boyea prefers to use the Prayer over the People.]

**God our Father
made you his children by water and the Holy Spirit:
may he bless you
and watch over you with his fatherly love.**

R/. Amen.

**Jesus Christ the Son of God
promised that the Spirit of truth
would be with his Church forever:
may he bless you and give you courage
in professing the true faith.**

R/. Amen.

**The Holy Spirit
came down upon the disciples
and set their hearts on fire with love:
may he bless you,
keep you one in faith and love
and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.**

R/. Amen.

The bishop adds immediately:

**May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.**

R/. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Instead of the preceding blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used. The deacon or minister gives the invitation in these or similar words:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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

**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.**

R/. Amen.

The bishop adds immediately:

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

R/. Amen.