

RITE OF BLESSING CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

AFTER RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

After the readings, the celebrant gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates along the path leading to their complete initiation.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the homily, the priest in charge of the candidates' formation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

Reverend Father, these candidates, whom I now present to you, are beginning their final period of preparation for the sacrament of confirmation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

They have presented themselves to Bishop Soto and have received his encouragement and blessing. Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers.

The celebrant replies:

Those who are to be recognized, come forward as you are called.

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate comes forward and stands facing the community.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

Then the celebrant moves in front of the candidates and addresses the assembly in these or similar words:

My dear friends, these candidates, already one with us by reason of their baptism in Christ, have asked to complete their initiation. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their catechetical formation they have listened to the word of Christ and endeavored to follow his commands more perfectly; they have shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters in this community and joined with them in prayer.

And so I announce to all of you here that our community ratifies their desire to complete their initiation. Therefore I ask their **sponsors (parents, catechists)** to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

He invites the sponsors (parents, catechists) to stand in place, and addresses them:

As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacrament of confirmation?

Sponsors (Parents / Catechists):

We do.

The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:

And now, my dear friends, I address you. Your own **sponsors (parents, catechists)** have spoken in your favor. The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony and sends you to Bishop Soto, who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Then the sponsors and the whole congregation join in the general intercessions.
One or more of the following intentions are added to the intentions for the
Church and the whole world.

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first,
we pray to the Lord:

Assisting minister:

That their parents, godparents, and sponsors may be living examples of the
Gospel, we pray to the Lord:

Assisting minister:

That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's word, we
pray to the Lord:

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their
friendship with Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

Assisting minister:

That our community may grow together in charity and be constant in prayer, we
pray to the Lord:

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES

After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the candidates, says the following prayer.

Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.

Guide these candidates in the days and weeks ahead:
strengthen them in their vocation,
build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DISMISSAL OF THE ASSEMBLY

If the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of the following formulary or similar words:

Celebrant:

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All:

Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

When the eucharist is to follow, the liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.