

Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop

Outline of the Rite

Liturgy of the Word

Homily

Presentation of the Catechumens

Affirmation by the Godparents

[and the Assembly]

[Presentation of the Candidates]

[Affirmation by the Sponsors]

[and the Assembly]

Intercessions for the Catechumens

[and Candidates]

Prayer over the Catechumens

[and Candidates]

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Homily

Presentation of the Catechumen

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

Reverend Father, these catechumens, **N.** and **N.**, are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example.

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 as they go forth to the rite of election celebrated by Bishop **N.**

The celebrant replies:

Those who are to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ, come forward, together with those who will be your sponsor.

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a godparent (godparents), comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

Affirmation by the Godparents [and the Assembly]

Then the celebrant addresses the assembly in these or similar words:

My dear friends, these catechumens who have been preparing for the sacraments of initiation hope that they will be found ready to participate in the rite of election and be chosen in Christ for the Easter sacraments. It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the bishop.

He addresses the godparents:

I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these candidates. Have these catechumens taken their formation in the Gospel and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

Godparents:

They have.

Celebrant:

Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

Godparents:

They have.

Celebrant:

Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

Godparents:

They have.

Celebrant:

Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop for the rite of election?

Godparents:

We do.

[When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates.]

The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:

My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to the bishop, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work he has begun in you.

If no candidates preparing for the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist (and/or: reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church) are present, skip to the Intercessions for the Catechumens (and Candidates).

[Please note: it is the practice of the Diocese of Saint Cloud to have the catechumens enter their names into the Book of Elect during the Rite of Election. Therefore, there is no need for them to sign the book during the Rite of Sending.]

Presentation of the Candidates

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, I now present to you the candidates who are beginning their final period of preparation for the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist (and/or: reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church). They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

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 as they go forth to the call to continuing conversion celebrated by the Bishop N..

The celebrant replies:

Those who are to be recognized, come forward, together with your sponsors.

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by their sponsor, comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

Affirmation by the Godparents [and the Assembly]

Then the celebrant 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 be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire.

During their period of 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 supports these candidates in their desire. Therefore, I ask their sponsors to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

Celebrant to Candidates:

As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist (and/or: ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church)?

Sponsors:

We do.

[When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates.]

The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:

And now, my dear friends, I address you. Your sponsors [and this entire community] have spoken in your favor. The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony and sends you to Bishop N., who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.

Intercessions for the Catechumens [and Candidates]

Then the community prays for the catechumens [and candidates] by use of the following or a similar formulary. The celebrant may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances.

[If it is decided, in accord with no. 546, that after the dismissal of the catechumens the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intercessions for the catechumens and candidates.]

My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. As we journey together to the Easter sacraments, these catechumens s [and candidates] will look to us for an example of Christian renewal.

Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Assisting minister:

That these catechumens [and candidates] may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord:

℟: Lord, hear our prayer

That their godparents [and sponsors] may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

℟: Lord, hear our prayer

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

℟: Lord, hear our prayer

That these catechumens [and candidates] may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer

That our community, during this [or: the coming] Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

℟️ Lord, hear our prayer

Prayer over the Catechumen [and Candidates]

After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens [and 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 catechumens [and 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 Catechumens

If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the catechumens are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the catechumens are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option C is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D.

A The celebrant dismisses the catechumens in these or similar words.

My dear friends, you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. In his name we send you forth from this community to celebrate with the bishop the Lord's choice of you to be numbered among his elect. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

Catechumens:

Amen.

B As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.

My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

C If for serious reasons the catechumens cannot leave and must remain with the rest of the liturgical assembly, they, along with the candidates, are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the Catholic faithful do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

D The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.

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, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercession for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.