
GUIDELINES FOR THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

1. Confirmation Names: Name tags or name tag ribbons are the best possible mode of presenting the candidate by name.
 - a) Stoles are discouraged.
 - b) Having the candidate (or the sponsor) recite the formula: *“Your Excellency, I wish to be confirmed with the name...”*, while liturgically laudable, does not work well in practice.
 2. Sundays, Solemnities and Feast Days:
 - a) When the celebration takes place on a Sunday, a solemnity, or a feast day, the Liturgy, the readings and the colour of vestments, will be that of the day.
 - b) On Sundays the usual collection is encouraged.
 - c) The Gloria is not used unless the Sunday, solemnity, or feast day calls for it.
 3. Entrance Procession:
 - a) The candidates may have taken their place before the processional, or they may come in procession following the cross bearer and two acolytes.
 - b) Sacred Chrism: the pastor, or a delegated parishioner, may bring in procession the Sacred Chrism stock (it is to be placed on the altar).
 - c) Concelebration: Visiting priests are most welcome to concelebrate with the bishop. When there are sufficient priests present to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, extraordinary ministers need not be employed.
 4. Seating:
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- a) Candidates should be seated together on both sides of the main aisle to allow them to approach the Bishop two by two rather than in single file. (Candidates and sponsors are not to sit next to each other).
 - b) Sponsors should sit together as a group behind the group of candidates. Sponsors are to be seated in the church before the opening procession begins.
 5. Welcoming the Bishop: When all are in their places, after the opening hymn and before the Sign of the Cross, the pastor or member of the parish may briefly welcome the bishop.
 6. Gospel: The Gospel is proclaimed by the pastor or the deacon if one is present.
 7. Presentation of Candidates: The pastor, or a delegated parishioner, presents the candidates to the bishop.
 - a) The bishop will then give the homily.
 8. Procession for Anointing:
 - a) The candidates are to proceed forward, from both sides of the centre aisle, as they normally would when processing forward to receive Holy Communion. The sponsors are to simultaneously do the same and meet their candidate before the bishop. Sponsors are to place their right hand on the right shoulder of the candidate for the anointing.
 9. Anointing:
 - a) There is to be no singing or music during the anointing so that the responses are audible for the congregation.
 - b) Special preparation is required to encourage the candidate to make these responses: “*Amen*” and “*and also with your spirit*”.
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- c) The bishop and candidates stand for the anointing.
 - d) Washing the bishop's hands after the anointing is best accomplished by the use of a sliced lemon and water (lemon juice or lemon extracts are inefficient). Bread is no longer used.
10. Prayers of the Faithful: There are recommended intercessory prayers in the ritual. If a deacon is present, it is his role to announce the intercessions.
- a) Prayers invoking the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are not appropriate. Those gifts have just been asked for and received.
11. Certificates and Gifts: Confirmation Certificates and/or gifts from the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, or the parish are to be distributed outside the celebration Mass, that is in the parish hall after the photographs with the bishop or at a later time.
12. Photos:
- a) There are to be no pictures taken during the ceremony.
 - b) There is to be no group photo.
 - c) An area in the reception hall is to be designated for photographs with the bishop. The pastor (or commentator) is asked to invite the people to this reception and to encourage the candidates to approach the bishop with their families before helping themselves to refreshments.
13. Please, as a courtesy to the bishop, and before liturgical plans are finalized, fax a copy of the program with the readings for his perusal. All changes or additions to what is considered to be normative must be cleared by the bishop.