

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word are celebrated in the ordinary way.
After the Gospel, a Priest, Deacon or Parish Minister addresses the candidates.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Will the candidates for confirmation please stand.

He/she then addresses the Bishop.

Most Reverend Archbishop,
the parish of (name)
presents these candidates
for the sacrament of confirmation.
Those who know them judge them to be sincere in their desire.
They have heard the word of Christ
in the assembly of the Church
and have attempted to shape their conduct accordingly.
They have shared in the fellowship and prayer
of their brothers and sisters.
Now I wish to inform you and all here present
of our community's decision to call them to confirmation.
Each candidate is accompanied by a sponsor
and it is my privilege to present these candidates to you.

The Bishop inquires as to the readiness of the candidates.

**The Church asks that its members
be suitably prepared for the sacraments
so that they may receive the grace of God
freely and knowingly.
Have these candidates been formed and instructed?**

The parish minister responds.

They have participated
in our community's process of formation
and have received appropriate catechesis.
We feel they are ready for confirmation.

Then the Bishop questions the candidates.

**My dear candidates,
do you understand what this sacrament means to you
and to your sharing in the life and mission of the Church?**

They respond:

We do.

Then the Bishop concludes.

**In the name of Jesus Christ and his Church, I accept you
and I pray that the sacrament which you are about to receive,
will strengthen your faith
and assist the growth of God's kingdom among us.**

Then the congregation gives its assent by applause. The homily follows.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

After the Homily only the candidates stand. The Bishop from the chair questions them:

Bishop: Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works,
and empty promises?

Candidates: 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 today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles
on the day of Pentecost?

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.*

Bishop: 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 replies: *Amen.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Then the Bishop, while the Priests associated with him stand near him, faces the people and with hands joined he continues:

Bishop: Dearly beloved,
 let us pray to God the almighty Father,
 for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
 already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
 that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit
 upon them
 to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
 and through his anointing
 conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

The Bishop and any priests who are assisting with anointing lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them). The Bishop alone says:

Bishop: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.**

The whole congregation replies: Amen.

A brief acclamation may be sung.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The Pastor (on the Bishop's right) holds the Chrism for the Bishop while he confirms. (see guidelines for details/options)

Each candidate goes to the Bishop. The Sponsor stands behind the candidate with his/her right hand on the candidate's right shoulder.

The Bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says:

Bishop: **N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Candidate: *Amen.*

Bishop: **Peace be with you.**

Candidate: *And with your spirit.*

During the anointing a suitable song may be sung that does not distract from the ritual action and dialogue between the Bishop and the newly confirmed.

Following the anointing, the Profession of Faith is omitted, since it has already been made.

The Universal Prayer follows [see below]

After the Universal Prayer, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated in the usual way.

Some of the newly confirmed participate in bringing the gifts to the altar.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**Bishop: With joy, knowing the Spirit of God dwells within us, we
open our hearts and minds to the fire of God's love.**

Deacon or minister: For these newly confirmed,
may they bear witness to Christ
by their way of life, we pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister: For their parents and sponsors,
may they continue to encourage the newly confirmed
to follow Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister: For young women and men,
may this community nurture them to consider
a vocation to ordained priesthood
or vowed religious life, we pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister: For the Church, together with Pope Leo
and Bishop Checchio, may we grow and increase
in unity of faith and love, we pray to the Lord.

Deacon or minister: For the whole world,
may all people seek the kingdom of God, which is peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

**Bishop: God of wisdom and understanding,
you gather what is scattered.
Graciously hear the prayers of your people
united in the Spirit's love and grant what we seek
in the name of Jesus our Lord.**

All: Amen.

The Concluding Rites

Instead of the usual blessing at the end of Mass, the following blessing or the Prayer over the People is used.

Bishop: **The Lord be with you.**

All: *And with your spirit.*

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Deacon or minister says the following invitation:

Bow down for the blessing.

The Bishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

Bishop: **May God the Father almighty bless you,
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.**

All: *Amen.*

Bishop: **May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth
 would abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.**

All: *Amen.*

Bishop: **May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts
 of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.**

All: *Amen.*

And he blesses all the people, adding:

Bishop: And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

Or:

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Instead of the preceding blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used. The deacon or minister says the following invitation:

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Deacon or minister says the following invitation:

Bow down for the blessing.

The Bishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

Bishop: Confirm, O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed to confess Christ
crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Bishop: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Bishop or Deacon: Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
or
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
or
Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.