

PARISH CELEBRATION
FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION
and the
CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF THE
CANDIDATES

Approved Thursday February 9, 2023

Homily

After the readings, the Priest Celebrant (or the Deacon) gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens and candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the catechumens and candidates along the path of the paschal mystery.

Presentation of the Catechumens

RCIA Director: Reverend Father, these catechumens, 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 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 rite of election celebrated this afternoon by Bishop Checchio.

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

RCIA Director: Catechumens, please come forward with your godparents as your names are called.

The Catechumens are: *(Names)*

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

Affirmation by the Godparents [and the assembly]

Celebrant: 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 then address the godparents.

And so, 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: Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop for the rite of election?

Godparents: We do.

The celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates.

The celebrant concludes the affirmation as follows:

Celebrant: 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.

The catechumens and their godparents, move aside to an appropriate place near the sanctuary so that space is available before the Celebrant for the candidates who will come forward shortly.

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist

RCIA Director: Will the Candidates, please stand.

Reverend Father, I now present to you the candidates who are already baptized and seek to complete their initiation (*or*: who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church). They too have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to Confirmation and Eucharist.

Celebrant: Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, come forward, together with your sponsors.

RCIA Director: Candidates, please come forward with your sponsors as your names are called.

The Candidates are: (*Names*).

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

Affirmation by the Sponsors [and the assembly]

Celebrant: **The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.**

Therefore, I turn to you sponsors and inquire.

Have they faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed in the Church?

Sponsors: **They have.**

Celebrant: **Have they come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and his Church?**

Sponsors: **They have.**

Celebrant: **Have they reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is their heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?**

Sponsors: **They have.**

Celebrant: **Have they advanced in a life of love and service to others?**

Sponsors: **They have.**

Celebrant: And now, I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these candidates and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

Sponsors: We are.

Act of Recognition

Celebrant: Dear Candidates, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal covenant.

Candidates: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of the Easter mysteries.

Sponsors, I invite you to offer your candidate a gesture indicating to them that you are receiving them into your care for the Lenten season

Intercessions for the Catechumens and Candidates

These intercessions are provided as a suggested example from the Book of RCIA.

Celebrant: Please stand.

My brothers and sisters, in the beginning of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. These catechumens and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, 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.

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Catechumens and Candidates

*After the final intercession the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens and candidates, says the following prayer. This prayer comes from the RCIA 115 *Prayer over the Catechumens* since it is more general than that for just the candidates.*

Celebrant: **God 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.

All: **Amen.**

Dismissal

If the catechumens are normally dismissed, then the following may be said:

Celebrant: **My dear Catechumens, 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 on the final
Sundays of this Lenten season, walk always in the
peace of Christ.**

Catechumens: **Amen.**

If for serious reason the catechumens cannot leave, (cf. RCIA 75.3) they are to be reminded by the celebrant:

Celebrant: My dear Catechumens, 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.

When the Eucharist is to follow, the general intercessions and profession of faith may follow the dismissal. But, for pastoral reasons these general intercession and profession of faith may be omitted. (RCIA 117)

The Liturgy of the Eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.