

RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION (4c)

As members of one body, you have been called to his peace

446 This rite may be celebrated with baptized but previously uncatechized adults who wish to complete their Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist or who wish to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

447 The rite is intended for celebrations in communities where there are no catechumens.

448 The rite is celebrated at the beginning of Lent. The presiding celebrant is the pastor of the parish.

449 If the calling of candidates to continuing conversion is to be combined with the rite of election of catechumens (either in a parish celebration or at one in which the bishop is celebrant) the alternate rite given on page 315 (Appendix I, 3) is used.

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Homily

Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist

Affirmation by the Sponsors [and the Assembly]

Act of Recognition

General Intercessions

Prayer over the Candidates

[Dismissal of the Assembly]

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

450 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 in their final preparation leading to the celebration of confirmation and eucharist.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

451 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, (since Easter is drawing near,) I am pleased to present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation (or: who are preparing to be received 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 after this Lenten season, they be admitted to confirmation and the eucharist (or: to full eucharistic sharing).

The celebrant replies:

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

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]

452 Then the celebrant addresses the assembly. If he has taken part in the earlier deliberation on the candidates' suitability (see no. 122), he may use either option A or option B or similar words; if he has not taken part in the earlier deliberation, he uses option B or similar words.

A My dear friends, these candidates, our brothers and sisters, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know then have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their preparation they have reflected on the mystery of their baptism and have come to appreciate more deeply the presence of Christ in their lives. They have shared the company of their brothers and sisters, joined with them in prayer, and endeavored to follow Christ's commands more perfectly.

And so I am pleased to recognize their desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I ask their sponsors now to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

He addresses the sponsors:

Do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacraments of confirmation and the eucharist (or: to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church)?

Sponsors:

We do.

453 When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words:

Now I ask you, the members of this community:

Are you willing to affirm the testimony expressed about these candidates and support them in faith, prayer, and example as they prepare to participate more fully in the Church's sacraments?

All:

We are.

B 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 the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.

He addresses the sponsors:

Have they faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by 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 of others?

Sponsors:

They have.

When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words:

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?

All:

We are.

ACT OF RECOGNITION

454 Then the celebrant says:

N. and N., 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.

Then the celebrant turns to the sponsors and instructs them in the following or similar words:

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.

He invites them to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care, or to make some other gesture to indicate the same intent.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

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

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That God bless those who have nurtured these candidates in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may embrace the discipline of Lent as a means of purification and approach the sacrament of reconciliation with trust in God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may open their hearts to the promptings of God's Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may approach the table of Christ's sacrifice with thanksgiving and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES

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

Lord God,
whose love brings us to life
and whose mercy gives us new birth,
look favorably upon these candidates,
and conform their lives
to the pattern of Christ's suffering.
May he become their wealth and wisdom,
and may they know in their lives
the power flowing from his resurrection,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

DISMISSAL OF THE ASSEMBLY

457 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

458 The liturgy of the eucharist begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.