

RITE 1:

(when only the unbaptized are present)

RITE OF SENDING OF THE CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION

106 At the conclusion of the period of the catechumenate, a rite of sending the catechumens to their election by the bishop may be celebrated in parishes wherever this seems beneficial or desirable. When election will take place in the parish, this rite is not used.

107 As the focal point of the Church's concern for the catechumens, admission to election belongs to the bishop who is usually its presiding celebrant. It is within the parish community, however, that the preliminary judgment is made concerning the catechumens' state of formation and progress.

108 The rite is celebrated in the parish church at a suitable time prior to the rite of election.

109 The rite takes place after the homily in a celebration of the word of God or at Mass.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

111 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,
whom I now present to you,
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 blessing and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election
celebrated this afternoon by Bishop Hoeppe.**

Celebrant replies:

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

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

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

112 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:

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

Godparents:

We do.

Celebrant:

**My dear catechumens,
this community gladly recommends you to Bishop Hoeppe, n.
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.**

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS

Celebrant:

**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 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 may be freed from selfishness
and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord: R/. Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**That their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the
Lord: R/. Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's word,
let us pray to the Lord: R/. Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**That these catechumens may share with others the joy they have found in their
friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: R/. 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: R/. Lord Hear Our
Prayer**

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS

Celebrant prays with hands outstretched over the catechumens

**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 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.
R/. Amen**

DISMISSAL

Celebrant:

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:

R/ Amen

110 When the Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election is combined with the rite of sending for recognition by the bishop the (already baptized) adult candidates for the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist (or: for reception into full communion of the Catholic Church), the alternate rite (at #530-ff) is used or see below **Rite 3**.

RITE 2:

(when only baptized candidates are present)

RITE OF SENDING THE CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP AND FOR THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

434 This optional rite is provided for parishes whose candidates seeking to complete their Christian initiation or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church will be recognized by the bishop in a subsequent celebration (for example, at the cathedral with the bishop.)

437 When the rite of sending candidates for recognition is to be combined with the rite of sending catechumens for election, the alternate rite found [at RCIA 530ff] is used.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

438. 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 along the path leading to their complete initiation.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

439. 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,
these candidates, whom I now present to you,
are beginning their final period of preparation
for the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist
(or: *preparation 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 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 for recognition by Bishop Hoeppe this afternoon
(or: *next Sunday [or: specify the day]*) .**

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 a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS [AND ASSEMBLY]

440. 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 complete their initiation
(or: to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church)
Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire.
During the period of their 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 ratifies their desire to complete their initiation (or: to be received into full communion).
Therefore, I ask their sponsors to state their opinion once again,
so that all of you may hear.

He addresses the sponsors:

As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to receive the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist?

Sponsors:

We do.

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

441. The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:

And now, my dear friends, I address you.

Your own 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 Hoeppe, who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity

to the life of Christ.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

442. 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 be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first,
let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

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

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That these candidates may share with others the joy they have found
in their friendship with Jesus

let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That our community, during the coming Lenten season, may grow
in charity and be constant in prayer,

let us pray to the Lord:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES

443. After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands out stretched over the 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 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.
R/. Amen**

DISMISSAL OF THE ASSEMBLY

444. 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

445. When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required by the liturgy, 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.

RITE 3:

(When both unbaptized and baptized are present)

PARISH CELEBRATION FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

536. After the readings the celebrant 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 candidates along the path leading to their complete initiation.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

537 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,
whom I now present to you,
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 blessing and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election
celebrated this afternoon by Bishop Hoeppe.**

Celebrant replies:

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

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

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

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

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It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness
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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:

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Celebrant:

**My dear catechumens,
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May God bring to completion the good work he has begun in you.**

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