

THE RITE OF CALLING THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

OCIA nos. 450-458

446. This rite may be celebrated with baptized but uncatechized adults who wish to complete their Christian Initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and the 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 may be celebrated at the beginning of Lent, especially for adult Catholics (cf. no. **409**). The presiding celebrant is the Bishop or 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 in Appendix I, 3 is used (nos. **546-561**).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

450. After the readings, the celebrant gives the Homily. The Homily, suited to the actual situation, should address not only the candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that, striving to give good example, they may accompany the candidates in their final preparation leading to the celebration of Confirmation and the Eucharist.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION AND THE 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:

(Most) Reverend Father,

(as the solemn paschal celebrations approach once more,)

the candidates present here, relying on divine grace and supported by the prayers and example of the community, humbly request that, after due preparation, they be admitted to participate in the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist

(or: to full Eucharistic Communion).

The celebrant replies:

**Let those who desire
to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church
come forward with their sponsors.**

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

***[If they come from different parishes within a collaborative, they should be
called in separate groups according to Parish, for example: "From St. Mary's
Parish...(names)...From St. Joseph's Parish...(names)".]***

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS (AND THE ASSEMBLY)

**452. Then the celebrant addresses the assembly. If he took part in the
previous deliberation about the candidates' suitability (cf. 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 Celebrant:

**My dear brothers and sisters,
these candidates have asked to participate fully
in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.**

**Those who know them have judged
that they are 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 in fraternal communion and in prayers.**

**And so I am pleased to recognize their desire
to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church.
As I inform you of this judgment and speak to the sponsors,
I ask them to give their recommendation again, in your presence.**

He, then, turns toward the sponsors:

With God as your witness, do you judge these candidates to be worthy of admission to the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist (or: into the full communion of the Catholic Church)?

Sponsors:

We do.

453. Then, if the circumstances warrant, the celebrant may ask the entire congregation for its assent:

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

He, then, turns toward the sponsors:

Have they faithfully listened to God's word 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 of service to others?

Sponsors:

They have.

Then, if the circumstances warrant, the celebrant may ask the entire congregation for its assent:

Now I ask you, the members of this community: Are you willing to affirm 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 turns toward the candidates, addressing them in these or similar words:

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, turning toward the sponsors, the celebrant addresses them in these 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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL)

455. Then the sponsors and the whole congregation join in the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful). One or more of the following intentions for the candidates are added to the intentions for the Church and the whole world.

[Candidates and sponsors remain at front during the General Intercessions, returning to seats only after the celebrant has prayed over them.]

Lector:

**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.

Lector:

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

**That these candidates may (embrace the discipline of Lent as a means of
purification and) approach the Sacrament of Penance with trust in God's
mercy, let us pray to the Lord:**

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lector:

**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.

Lector:

**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.

Lector:

**That our community (during this Lenten season) may be radiant with the
fullness of charity and with constancy in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:**

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

456. *The celebrant, extending his hands over the candidates, concludes the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) with this 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 lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R. Amen.

[Candidates now return to their seats.]

DISMISSAL OF THE ASSEMBLY

457. *If the Eucharist is not celebrated, a suitable chant, as circumstances suggest, may be added, and the entire assembly may be dismissed, using these or similar words:*

Go in peace and may the Lord remain with you.

All:

Thanks be to God.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

458. *When the Eucharist is celebrated, the Creed, if required, is said, and the Preparation of the Gifts follows. But for pastoral reasons the Creed may be omitted.*