

Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion - REVISED RITUAL TEXT
Notes

PREPARATIONS _____

- *There is NO BOOK OF THE ELECT at this particular celebration.*
- *Have reserved seating in the front for the candidates and their sponsors. They may be in the opening procession, but after bowing/genuflecting to the altar, they go right to their place. If they are not in the procession, they should be seated beforehand.*
- *This rite is optional and is celebrated at the parish only with CANDIDATES. It is intended for those, especially the uncatechized, baptized as non-Catholics who seek to be Received into Full Communion. No permission from the Bishop is needed to celebrate this rite in the parish*
- *The rite is celebrated at the beginning of Lent, if Reception into Full Communion is to take place at the Easter Vigil or even in the Easter Season. Nonetheless, if Reception into Full Communion is celebrated another time of year, this rite may be celebrated about six weeks before the Reception.*
- *This rite may be celebrated within our outside of Mass. The outline below presumes that Mass is celebrated. Everything in the Mass is celebrated normally until after the Homily.*

HOMILY _____

- *The celebrant should incorporate this celebration into his comments, although the homily is addressed to the ENTIRE community and not simply the candidates.*

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES _____

- *There is flexibility in who presents the candidates to the celebrant: "the priest in charge of the candidates' formation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community..." usually it's the OCIA coordinator or catechist. Note: the introduction is addressed to the celebrant, so it should NOT be the celebrant who gives this introduction.*
- *After the introductory words by the person presenting (a text is given for this introduction, but can be modified as needed), the celebrant replies: "Let those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church come forward with their sponsors."*
- *Then the candidate's names are called and the people come forward. Determine ahead of time where they will be standing.*
- *This format should be maintained, even though the words of the introduction may be modified. If there are multiple candidates, do not name them during the introductory words, but only after the celebrant replies to the introduction. If there is just one candidate, he or she can be named in the introduction and simply come forward after the celebrant replies. In this case, the name is not spoken again after the reply.*

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS _____

- *The celebrant first begins by addressing the assembly. The celebrant should be aware of who he is addressing, turning his body as appropriate when needed. The words the celebrant uses may be adjusted from what is in the book.*

- *Two options are given for the celebrant to address the sponsors. OPTION A or B can be used if the celebrant himself has been part of the formation process for the candidates. OPTION B is used if the celebrant has not been a part of the formation process.*
- *After an introductory text addressed to the assembly, OPTION A has the celebrant asking just 1 question of the sponsors. The sponsors respond, "We do" or "I do" if there is only one sponsor and one candidate for the rite. Note: the celebrant should turn to face the sponsors if he has his back toward them while addressing the assembly.*
- *After an introductory text addressed to the assembly, OPTION B as the celebrant asking 4 questions of the sponsors (since the celebrant himself is not part of the formation process and therefore does not know the candidates well enough).*
- *Always consider using option B with the extended questions, even if the celebrant knows the candidates well. While he might be familiar with the candidates and their progress in the OCIA, the assembly may not be as familiar, and the extended questioning will be beneficial for the assembly to hear.*

AFFIRMATION OF THE ASSEMBLY _____

- *This is optional, but again – ought to be done – so as the assembly, upon hearing the testimony of the Sponsors, can voice their support. OPTION A and OPTION B, above, both have a text for the affirmation of the assembly that follows the affirmation of the sponsors. The text is slightly different between OPTION A and OPTION B.*

ACT OF RECOGNITION _____

- *The Act of Recognition consists of an address first to the candidates, and then to the sponsors. The sponsors then make some sort of act of support: such as placing their hand on the shoulder of the candidate.*
- *Set text in the ritual (which may be adapted by the celebrant), addressing the candidates: "N. and N. (naming the candidates, not the sponsors), 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.*
- *The candidates respond: "Thanks be to God."*
- *Then the celebrant turns to the sponsors; set text in the ritual (which may be adapted by the 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 Mystery."*
- *The celebrant then invites to make a gesture of support over their candidate. Suggested in the rite is to have "sponsors place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate."*
- *You will need to decide where the sponsors and candidates go from here for the Universal Prayer that follows. They may remain where they are, standing, or you may send them back to their pew.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER _____

- *Intercessions for Mass are said in the customary way. In addition to the regular intercessions for Mass, multiple intercessions (which are given in the ritual text) are made for the candidates. You can choose all or some of the intercessions for the candidates.*
- *One suggestion: put three or four of the intercessions for candidates FIRST – beginning each petition with: “For our candidates, that...” After these, list the regular intercessions for Mass.*

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES _____

- *This is the celebrant’s concluding prayer to the intercessions.*
- *Note: the celebrant extends hands over the candidates while saying this prayer.*

LORD GOD, WHOSE LOVE BRINGS US TO LIFE AND WHOSE MERCY GIVES US NEW BRITH, 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST _____

- *Mass continues the usual way with the Creed and the Preparation of the Altar and Gifts.*
- *It is NOT appropriate for the candidates to bring forward the gifts. Sponsors may...*
- *The Creed may be omitted for Pastoral Reasons (again, keeping the format of the ritual simple so as not to confuse the assembly. The Creed usually comes before the Intercessions, not vice-versa).*
- *The Candidates and their sponsors may be in the closing procession.*