

Rite of Sending for Candidates - 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 may be celebrated only if you are sending candidates to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion. If you are celebrating the Call to Continuing Conversion in your parish, you do not celebrate this rite.*
- *Everything in the Mass is celebrated normally until after the Homily.*

HOMILY \_\_\_\_\_

- *The celebrant should incorporate this celebration and the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion 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: "Candidates, come forward, together with your sponsors."*
- *Then the names are called and the people come forward.*
- *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. 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.*
- *Then, he TURNS TOWARD THE SPONSORS them: 1 question, sponsors respond: We do.*

AFFIRMATION BY 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. There is no set text in the Ritual for questioning the assembly. Again, the celebrant TURNS to address the assembly.*

- *A suggested text: "Those who are assembled here: do you accept these candidates and support them by your faith, prayer, and example as we move toward Easter? If so, say 'we do.'"*

#### SENDING \_\_\_\_\_

- *Set text by the ritual, addressing the candidates: "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 the Calling to Continuing Conversion, where Bishop McDermott will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.*
- *The candidates do not say anything.*
- *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.*

ALMIGHTY, MOST BELOVED FATHER, WHOSE WILL IT IS TO RENEW ALL THINGS IN CHRIST AND WHO DRAW ALL PEOPLE TO HIM, GRACIOUSLY GUIDE THESE CANDIDATES OF THE CHURCH AND GRANT THAT, FAITHFUL TO THE CALLING THEY HAVE RECEIVED, THEY MAY BE BUILT UP INTO THE KINGDOM OF YOUR SON AND BE SEALED WITH THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT. THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST \_\_\_\_\_

- *Mass continues the usual way with the Creed & 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.*