

Chapter 1: Rite of Confirmation Within Mass

Liturgy of the Word

20. The liturgy of the word is celebrated in the ordinary way. The readings may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day or from the texts for confirmation in the Lectionary for Mass (nos. 763-767) and listed below (nos. 61-65).

Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of the Candidates

21. After the gospel the bishop and the priests who will be ministers of the sacrament with him take their seats. The pastor or another priest, deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for confirmation, according to the custom of the region. If possible, each candidate is called by name and comes individually to the sanctuary. If the candidates are children, they are accompanied by one of their sponsors or parents and stand before the celebrant.

If there are very many candidates, they are not called by name, but simply take a suitable place before the bishop.

Homily or Instruction

22. The bishop then gives a brief homily. He should explain the readings and so lead the candidates, their sponsors and parents, and the whole assembly to a deeper understanding of the mystery of confirmation. He may use these or similar words:

Bishop: On the day of Pentecost the apostles received the Holy Spirit as the Lord had promised. They also received the power of giving the Holy Spirit to others and so completing the work of baptism. This we read in the Acts of the Apostles. When Saint Paul placed his hands on those who had been baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in other languages and in prophetic words.

Bishops are successors of the apostles and have this power of giving the Holy Spirit to the baptized, either personally or through the priests they appoint.

In our day the coming of the Holy Spirit in confirmation is no longer marked by the gift of tongues, but we know his coming by faith. He fills our hearts with the love of God, brings us together in one faith but in different vocations, and works within us to make the Church one and holy.

The gift of the Holy Spirit which you are to receive will be a spiritual sign and seal to make you more like Christ and more perfect members of His Church. At His baptism, by John, Christ Himself was anointed by the Spirit and sent out on His public ministry to set the world on fire.

You have already been baptized into Christ and now you will receive the power of His Spirit and the sign of the cross on your forehead. You must be witnesses before all the world to His suffering, death, and resurrection; your way of life should at all times reflect the goodness of Christ. Christ gives varied gifts to His Church, and the Spirit he distributes them among the member of Christ's body to build up the holy people of God in unity and love.

Be active members of the Church, alive in Jesus Christ. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit give your lives completely in the service of all, as did Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

So now, before you receive the power of the Holy Spirit, I ask you to renew the profession of faith you made in baptism or your parents and godparents made in union with the whole Church for you.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Stand

23. After the homily the candidates stand and the bishop questions them:

Bishop: Do you reject satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
was crucified, died, and was buried,
rose from the dead,
and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who came upon the apostles at Pentecost
and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

The Laying On Of Hands

24. The concelebrating priests stand near the bishop. He faces the people and with hands joined, sings or says:

Bishop: My dear friends,
in baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life,
to his chosen sons and daughters.
Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit
to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts
and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

All: (pray in silence for a short time)

25. The bishop and the priests who will minister the sacrament with him lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them). The bishop alone sings or says:

Bishop: All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed your sons and daughters from sin
and gave them new life.
Send your Holy Spirit upon them
to be their Helper and Guide.
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgment and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Anointing With Chrism

26. The deacon brings the chrism to the bishop. Each candidate goes to the bishop, or the bishop may go to the individual candidates. The one who presented the candidate places his right hand on the latter's shoulder and gives the candidate's name to the bishop; of the candidate may give his own name.

27. The bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

Bishop: (making the Sign of the Cross on the candidate's forehead, with Chrism)
N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmand: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Confirmand: And also with you.

28. If priests assist the bishop in conferring the sacrament, all the vessels of chrism are brought to the bishop by the deacon or by other ministers. Each of the priests comes to the bishop, who gives him a vessel of chrism.

The candidates go to the bishop or to the priests, or the bishop and priests may go to the candidates. The anointing is done as described above (27).

General Intercessions

30. The general intercessions follow, in this or similar form determined by the competent authority.

Bishop: My dear friends:
let us be one in prayer to God our Father
as we are one in faith, hope and love his Spirit gives.

Deacon or minister:

For these sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gift of the Spirit,
that they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

For their parents and godparents who led them in faith, that by word and example they
may always encourage them to follow the way of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

For the holy Church of God, in union with N. our pope, N our bishop, and all the bishops,
that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit, may help us grow in unity of faith
and love until his Son returns in glory, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

For all men, of every race and nation, that they may acknowledge the one God as Father,
and in the bond of common brotherhood seek his kingdom, which is peace and joy in the
Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop: God our Father,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles
and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people.
May his work begun at Pentecost
continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe.
We ask through Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

31. after the general intercessions the liturgy of the eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass,
with these exceptions:

- a) the profession of faith is omitted, since it has already been made;
- b) some of the newly confirmed may join those who bring the gifts to the altar;
- c) when Eucharistic Prayer I is used the special form "Father accept this offering" is said.

32. Adults who are confirmed, their sponsors, parents, wives and husbands, and catechists may receive
communion under both kinds.

Blessing

33. Instead of the usual blessing at the end of Mass, the following blessing or prayer over the people is
used. The bishop extends his hands over the people and sings or says:

Bishop: God our Father,

made you his children by water and the Holy Spirit:
may he bless you and watch over you with his fatherly love.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Jesus Christ the Son of God
promised that the Spirit of truth
would be with his Church for ever;
may he bless you and give you courage
in professing the true faith.

All: Amen.

Bishop: The Holy Spirit
came down upon the disciples
and set their hearts on fire with love:
may he bless you,
keep you one in faith and love
and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.

All: Amen.

Bishop: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.