

INTRODUCTION

On the following pages, you will find the ritual text for the Order of Confirmation within Mass.¹ It is provided here so that parishes can more fully prepare the confirmation liturgy. This version contains some specific instructions for Confirmation liturgies celebrated in the Diocese of Owensboro.

Use it as a companion to the diocesan “The Rite of Confirmation; Liturgical Guidelines” and the guide, “Instructions for Assisting the Bishop at a Rite of Confirmation Within Mass.” Both are found on our website, <http://rcdok.org/ministries/worship/confirmation> .

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ORDER OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

21. After the gospel the bishop ...takes his seat. 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.

The pastor or catechist approaches the microphone to present the candidates for Confirmation. They may use these or similar words:

Bishop Medley, we present to you these baptized young men and women who have prepared for and are now ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The candidates are called. They stand, then are seated again for the homily.

HOMILY OR INSTRUCTION

22. The bishop then gives a brief homily, by which, shedding light on the readings, he leads, as if by hand, those to be confirmed, their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

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

**Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works and empty promises?**

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

Bishop:

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

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles
on the day of Pentecost?**

Those to be confirmed:

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?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

The bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church

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

The whole congregation responds:

Amen.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

24. ... The bishop standing, facing the people, with hands joined says:

**Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a short time.

25. The bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him). But the Bishop alone says:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R/. Amen.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

26. The sacred Chrism is brought by the Deacon to the Bishop. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Bishop; or, if appropriate, the Bishop goes to each of those to be confirmed. The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the Bishop; or the one to be confirmed alone says his (her) name.

27. The bishop dips the tip of the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly confirmed replies:

Amen.

The bishop adds:

Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed:

And with your spirit.

It is preferable that there be silence during the entire anointing since we are invoking the Holy Spirit. However, soft instrumental music may be played to accompany a lengthy procession of candidates.

After all have been confirmed, the Bishop washes his hands. A bowl of warm, soapy water and a towel are presented by the servers. Then these items are removed.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

30. The Universal Prayer follows in this or a similar form determined by the competent authority.

Bishop:

**My dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father
and be of one mind in our prayer,
just as faith, hope and charity,
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.**

Deacon or minister:

**For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord
by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the holy Church of God,
together with N. our Pope, N. our Bishop,
and all the Bishops:
that gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love
until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the whole world:
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

**O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles
and willed that through them and their successors
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,
listen favorably to our prayer,
and grant that your divine grace,
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
may now spread through the hearts of those who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R/. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

31. After the Universal Prayer the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass with these changes:

- a) the Creed is omitted, since the Profession of Faith has already taken place.
- b) some of the confirmed may join those who bring forward the offerings;
- c) when the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the *Hanc igitur* (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said, no. 58. When Eucharistic Prayer II or Eucharistic Prayer III is used, the proper forms for these Prayers are said, no. 58.

CONCLUDING RITE

If there are any announcements, they are made at this time.

GREETING

The rite of dismissal takes place.

Facing the people, the bishop extends his hands and sings or says:

The Lord be with you.

The people answer:

And with your spirit.

SOLEMN BLESSING

33. Instead of the usual blessing, the following blessing or Prayer over the People is used at the end of Mass.

The deacon or minister gives the invitation in these or similar words:

Bow down for the blessing.

The Bishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

**May God the Father almighty bless you,
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.**

R/. Amen.

**May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth would abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.**

R/. Amen.

**May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.**

R/. Amen.

The bishop adds immediately:

**And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the
Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.**

R/. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Instead of the preceding formula of blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used. The deacon or minister gives the invitation in these or similar words:

Bow down for the blessing.

The bishop extends his hands over the people and sings or says:

**Confirm, O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen.

The bishop adds immediately:

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you forever.**

R/. Amen.