

CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Presentation of the Candidates

Presenter:

Reverend Father, since Easter is drawing near, I am pleased to present to you the candidates who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church (or who are completing their Christian initiation). They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example.

Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to full eucharistic sharing (or confirmation and the Eucharist).

Calling of the Candidates

Presider to Candidates:

Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, come forward, together with your sponsors, as your name is called.

Candidates and sponsors come forward as their names are called.

Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly

Presider:

My dear friends, these candidates, our brothers and sisters, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be 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 the company of their brothers and sisters, joined with them in prayer, and endeavored to follow Christ's commands more perfectly.

And so I am pleased to recognize their desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I ask their sponsors now to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

Do you consider these candidates ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church (or to receive the sacraments of confirmation and the Eucharist)?

Sponsors:

We do.

Presider to Assembly:

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.

Act of Recognition

Presider to Candidates:

N. and N. (or My dear candidates), 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!

Concluding Statement

Presider to Sponsors:

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.

(Acclamation or music may accompany them back to their seats.)

At the end, the candidates and their sponsors return to their places in the assembly.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

The Universal Prayers of the day are prayed and one or more of the following are included.

(Deacon or Lector)

That these candidates may come to a deeper appreciation of the baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord ...

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 ...

That they may open their hearts to the promptings of God's Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord ...

That they may approach the table of Christ's sacrifice with thanksgiving and praise, let us pray to the Lord ...

That our community, during this Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord ...

Prayer over the Elect and the Candidates

After the intercessions, the presider prays the following with hands extended over the candidates.

Presider:

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 Christ become their wealth and wisdom,

and may they know in their lives

the power flowing from his resurrection,

Who is Lord for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

The Eucharist continues with the preparation of gifts. If this is a Liturgy of the Word service, the entire assembly is dismissed.

(Presider:

God in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

R/ Thanks be to God.)