

COMBINED RITES CELEBRATION OF ELECTION

Presentation of the Catechumens

Presenter:

Reverend Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Calling of the Catechumens

Presider:

Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward, together with your godparents, as your names are called.

Catechumens and their godparents come forward as their names are called.

Affirmation by the Godparents and Assembly

Presider to Godparents:

God's holy Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so I speak first of all to you, their godparents.

Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents:

They have.

Presider to Godparents:

Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents:

They have.

Presider to Godparents:

Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents:

They have.

Presider to Assembly:

And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about the catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

Assembly:

We are.

Invitation and Enrollment of Names

Presider to Catechumens:

And now, my dear catechumens, I address you. Your own godparents and teachers, and this entire community, have spoken in your favor. The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments. Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist?

Catechumens:

We do.

Presider to Catechumens:

Then offer your names for enrollment.

Catechumens either step forward to sign the Book of the Elect or the previously signed Book of the Elect is presented to the Presider

(An Acclamation can be sung)

Act of Admission or Election

Presider to Catechumens:

N. and N. (My dear catechumens), I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

Elect:

Thanks be to God!

Concluding Statement

Presider:

God is always faithful to those he calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.

Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.

(Music accompanies the Elect as they return to their seats)

At the end the elect and their godparents return to their places in the assembly.

CELEBRATION OF THE CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

Presentation of the Candidates

Presenter:

Reverend Father, I now 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 too 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 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., (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.

INTERCESSION FOR THE ELECT AND THE CANDIDATES

Presider or Deacon:

Please stand.

Presider:

My brothers and sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. These elect and candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, will look to us for an example of Christian renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Deacon or Lector:

That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness, let us pray to the Lord ...

That our Elect may always remember this day of their election and be grateful for the blessings they have received from heaven, let us pray to the Lord ...

That our candidates for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church (or who are completing their Christian Initiation) may grow daily in fidelity to their baptismal covenant, let us pray to the Lord ...

That their Godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord ...

That their families may help them to follow the promptings of the Spirit, 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

Presider:

Lord God,
you created the human race and are the author of its renewal.
Bless all your adopted children
and add these chosen ones to the harvest of your covenant.
As true children of the promise,
may they rejoice in eternal life,
won, not by the power of nature,
but through the mystery of your grace.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

Dismissal of the Elect

My dear friends,
This community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the Word of God, which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.

(See paragraph # 561 regarding resumption of mass.)