

CONFIRMATION

1. Minister of Confirmation The ordinary minister of Confirmation for children baptized as infants is the Bishop. The Bishop is also the ordinary minister for the Confirmation of children who were received into full Communion prior to their First Communion and who seek to complete their Christian Initiation. Priests without a mandate from the Bishop are not permitted to confirm in these circumstances.

2. Candidates for Confirmation Children who were baptized as infants and wish to complete their Christian initiation are invited to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. In Hamilton Diocese, young people are usually in grade eight unless the Bishop has given permission for the celebration to take place at another time.

3. Confirmation Preparation It is the responsibility of the pastor and the parents to ensure that children are adequately prepared for the reception of Confirmation. It is the duty of the parish priest to ensure that the children are properly instructed, properly disposed and able to renew their baptismal promises. **A certificate of Baptism** is to be obtained by the parish priest in every case, prior to beginning preparation for Confirmation.

4. Foundational Catechesis is most often provided by the teacher in a Catholic school. The Year 8 catechetical resource in the *Born of the Spirit Series: Stand by Me*, does not include a particular catechesis for Confirmation. However, three units in this program are clearly suited to Confirmation preparation:

1. Unit 1 - We believe in the Holy Spirit
2. Unit 2 - We believe in the holy Church
3. Unit 3 - We believe in one catholic and apostolic Church.

Many classroom teachers and parishes supplement this material in order to provide adequate sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Many parishes, with the assistance of parish catechists, offer additional sacramental preparation programs outside of school hours which may include parental involvement. It is customary for parish priests (and teachers or catechists) to provide parents with information regarding the catechesis of the children and sacramental preparation. This often takes place in the context of parish meetings with parents.

Liturgical Preparation includes the child's regular participation at Sunday Mass and the rehearsal of common responses and songs, the ritual for celebrating Confirmation, and any ministerial roles which the children will assume during the Confirmation liturgy.

Opportunity for Reconciliation: It is customary to provide an opportunity for the candidates to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation. This may take place in the context of a retreat day.

5. Time for Confirmation The celebration of Confirmation takes place in the parish church on a Sunday or weekday which is determined by the Bishop in consultation with the pastor. In Hamilton Diocese Confirmation is always celebrated during Mass.

6. Place of Confirmation Confirmation is to be celebrated in the parish church where the child resides or where his/her family is registered. If Confirmation is to be celebrated in another church, permission of the child's proper pastor is required.

7. Sponsors for Confirmation The role of the sponsor in Confirmation is to encourage and support the candidate in his/her efforts to be a true and faithful witness to Christ. The sponsor should be chosen because he/she is an exemplary, active member of the Catholic Church.

A person, male or female, who has been fully initiated in the Catholic Church, and lives a life of faith may be a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be sixteen years of age or older, and may not be the parent of the candidate. It is desirable that the sponsor be the person who undertook this role at Baptism. When the sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation liturgy, another suitable person may be a proxy for the sponsor during the celebration.

8. Confirmation Name In the Rite of Confirmation there is no mention of choosing a special name for Confirmation. It is recommended that the child's baptismal name be used, emphasizing the important link between Baptism and Confirmation along the path of Christian initiation.

A customary practice in our country is for Confirmation candidates to choose a new name. If a new name is chosen, it ought to be the name of a recognized saint: a male name for a boy; a female name for a girl.

LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

Entrance Procession: The usual entrance procession for Mass takes place. The procession is led by the cross bearer and acolytes. A minister carrying the Book of the Gospels follows. According to parish custom, other ministers may also take part in the procession, including the candidates. It is preferable for the sponsors to be seated prior to the celebration. During the procession a song is sung by the entire assembly. The song should be familiar to all, possess a strong rhythmic quality, and engage all who have assembled for the celebration. Generally, the opening song should be part of the parish repertoire,

Seating: Candidates are to be seated as a group at the front of the church on both sides of the centre aisle. The sponsors are seated as a group directly behind them. It will be helpful to develop a seating plan prior to the celebration, so that the order of seating for the candidates corresponds to that for the sponsors.

Introductory Rites: When all are in place and the song is concluded, the pastor may extend a welcome to the Bishop, if this has not already taken place. The introductory rites are celebrated in the usual way. The *Glory to God* is sung only on solemnities and Sundays outside of Advent and Lent. The rite of blessing and sprinkling with water may be used in place of the penitential rite. The rite recalls the baptism of those who have assembled and prepares them to celebrate the candidates' completion of initiation. The introductory rites always conclude with the Opening Prayer for the Ritual Mass, unless Confirmation is celebrated on a Solemnity, on a Sunday during Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter, or during the Octave of Easter.

Proclamation of God's Word: The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in the usual way. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sunday or on a solemnity, the assigned readings of the day are to be used. On other occasions, selected readings from the *Lectionary for Confirmation* may be used. The Scriptures may be proclaimed by adult members of the community or by candidates who have been prepared to proclaim God's word. On Sundays and solemnities, a minister proclaims the first reading from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season when the reading is from the Acts of the Apostles). After a period of silence, all sing the responsorial psalm. A second minister then proclaims the New Testament reading. After a period of silence all stand and sing the gospel acclamation. The music for the acclamation should be both festive and well-known. Then the Gospel is proclaimed by the priest or deacon. On weekdays, only one reading before

the Gospel may be chosen. It may be taken from the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Presentation of Candidates: After the gospel proclamation, the candidates for Confirmation are presented to the Bishop. Models for the presentation are provided in the *Rite of Confirmation* (Canadian edition), pages 93-95.

Homily: The Bishop gives the homily, which may include a dialogue with the candidates.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: After the homily, the Bishop invites the candidates to stand for the renewal of their baptismal promises. The candidates respond: *I do* to each of the questions.

Laying on of Hands: Following the renewal of baptismal promises, all stand, and the Bishop extends his hands in prayer over the candidates, asking that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them.

Anointing with Chrism: Once he has received his mitre and crozier, the Bishop stands at the head of the centre aisle to anoint the candidates with sacred Chrism. The candidates approach the Bishop with their sponsors in pairs from the side aisles. They stand in front of the Bishop and tell him their name (e.g., *Bishop, my name is N.*). After the Bishop has anointed each person, he gives him/her the sign of peace, saying: *Peace be with you*. The candidate responds with the words: *And with your spirit*. The newly-confirmed then return to their places.

It is important that all in the assembly are able to see the ritual anointing and hear the words: *N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*. If the number of candidates is very large, it may be appropriate to accompany the anointing with meditative instrumental music.

Prayer of the Faithful: The intercessions may be announced by a minister or by the newly-confirmed, according to parish custom. Two models for the intercessions are found below. It is fitting to invite candidates and others in the community to prepare the petitions. However, care is to be taken that the intercessions include prayers for the Church, civil leaders, those in need, the local community, and the newly-confirmed. The response to the petitions may be sung.

Presentation of Gifts: After the intercessions, all are seated and the altar is prepared for the Eucharist. According to parish custom, a collection may be taken. Also, some of the newly-confirmed may place the cloth on the altar and bring forward flowers and candles to

adorn the altar. Others may bring forward the bread and wine as well as the collection or gifts for the poor. Instrumental music or a song may accompany this rite.

Eucharistic Prayer: The Eucharistic Prayer is the highpoint of the entire liturgy. It is important that all are familiar with the sung acclamations by which they participate in this great prayer. The music for the acclamations is usually taken from the parish repertoire.

Communion Rite: The Communion rite is celebrated in the usual way. All join in singing the Communion processional song.

When Confirmation is celebrated at a Sunday Mass, and it is the custom to offer Communion under both forms to the assembly, this custom may be observed. However, at other celebrations of Confirmation with children, Communion under both forms ought not to be offered.

When all have received Communion, a period of silent prayer is observed. A second Communion hymn is not sung at this time. Then, all stand for the Prayer after Communion.

Concluding Rite: The concluding rite of the Mass is celebrated in the usual way. Parish announcements, including an invitation to a reception, as well as an expression of thanks to the Bishop may be made at this time. A solemn blessing may be given and all are dismissed.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CELEBRATION

Dress: The candidates ought to be dressed in a way that is appropriate for a festive liturgical celebration and according to the customs of the parish. Expensive and elaborate clothing is neither necessary or desirable. Where it is the custom, gowns may be worn by the candidates.

Candidates are not to wear anything that resembles a stole, since this is a sign, not of the priesthood of the faithful, in which they share by virtue of their Baptism, but of the ordained ministry of the Church.

Photographs: Photographs and videos are not permitted during the liturgy so that all may participate fully in the celebration. Pictures are usually taken with the Bishop following the liturgical celebration.

Participation Booklets: In most communities the parish hymnal provides what is needed to ensure the full participation of all present for the celebration. However, if a special booklet is needed, care must be taken to obtain copyright permission for all prayer texts and songs that are being reproduced.

Mementoes and Certificates: Some parishes have the custom of distributing religious articles or certificates as part of the celebration of Confirmation. The distribution of such items should not take place during the Mass. This may be done following the liturgy at another time.

Confirmation Register Entries: The celebration of Confirmation is to be recorded in the parish register of Confirmation. A notice of Confirmation must be sent immediately to the church where the candidate was baptized. Notation is to be made in the parish register for those baptized in the same church where the Confirmation was celebrated.

Children with Special Needs: Baptized children who are developmentally disabled have the same rights as all baptized persons and ought to be invited to celebrate Confirmation, provided they are suitable catechized and are able to understand that they are receiving a gift from God to help them bear witness to Christ the Lord. Wherever possible, the catechesis for these children should be a joint effort between the parish, home and school. Modifications to the catechetical program and sacramental preparation may be necessary because of the special needs and abilities of these children.

LITURGICAL PREPARATION

Attention should be paid to the festive and solemn character of the liturgical celebration. Since Confirmation is celebrated during Mass, all those preparations which are made for the Sunday Eucharist ought to be made for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. Such preparations include the following:

A. Ministries

In order that the celebration be seen as the action of the whole people of God, a variety of ministries will be exercised. The ministers may be chosen from among the candidates or members of the parish community. The following is a checklist of required ministers:

1. Readers (one or two)
2. Cantor for the psalm
3. Reader(s) for the petitions
4. Gift bearers
5. Leader of song/choir
6. Servers:
 - a. Cross bearer (and book bearer)
 - b. Acolytes (two)
 - c. Mitre bearer
 - d. Crozier bearer
7. Ushers
8. Extraordinary ministers of Communion as needed.

B. Music Selection

Music in the liturgy is meant to enhance the prayer of the community and support the ritual action. Therefore, music appropriate to the season, the occasion of Confirmation, and the different moments in the liturgy ought to be chosen. Music which is familiar to the parish community should be considered first.

The following parts of the Mass ought to be sung at every Confirmation celebration:

1. Entrance Song
2. Responsorial Psalm
3. Gospel Acclamation
4. Eucharistic Acclamations:
 - a. Holy, Holy, Holy
 - b. Memorial Acclamation
 - c. Great Amen
5. Communion Hymn

Other parts may be sung according to parish custom. Hymns and acclamations taken from the *Catholic Book of Worship* and other approved parish hymnals are generally appropriate. It is always important that hymns sung during the liturgy are addressed to God.

C. Selection of Scripture Texts

Usually three scripture readings are used during the Confirmation Mass. Unless Confirmation takes place on a Sunday or solemnity, the readings are selected from the *Lectionary for Confirmation*. These texts are listed below. Readings may also be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day.

D. A Good Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word

The liturgical celebration of God's word is to be unhurried. Everything should be done to promote a faith-filled listening to the scriptures so that the Lord may be heard in this assembly. Attention to the following points will assure a good celebration of God's word:

1. The first reader waits until everyone is seated and settled before beginning the proclamation.
2. Only one person proclaims each reading.
3. The readers use the Lectionary for proclamation. They never use papers or booklets for the proclamation of God's word during the liturgy. (See Introduction to the Lectionary, n.37.) Readers will need to be familiar with the location of the readings in the Lectionary.
4. All readings are proclaimed from the Ambo. (See Introduction to Lectionary, n.16)
5. A pause for silent reflection after each reading will help the assembly to respond in prayer to God's word (GIRM, 45).
6. As a rule, the responsorial psalm should be sung by one person. The singing of the psalm, or even of the response alone, is a great help toward understanding and mediating on the psalm's spiritual meaning. (See Introduction to the Lectionary, nos. 19-22.)
7. The alleluia, or as the liturgical season requires, the verse before the Gospel, must be sung and during it all stand. When not sung, it should be omitted. (See Introduction to the Lectionary, 23).
8. The gospel is to be proclaimed by a deacon or priest. If incense is used, the gospel acclamation begins after the incense has been placed in the thurible. Acolytes may accompany the minister to the ambo and remain there during the proclamation.

E. Environment

To help bring about the festive nature of the celebration, suitable decorations may be used in the church. The use of banners, flowers, and other decorations will be determined by the style of the building and its size. Decorations ought to facilitate the people's prayer; they should never draw attention away from the prayers and the ritual gestures of the liturgy. Finally, decorations ought to be selected in accord with the liturgical season.

F. Seating of the Candidates

Since candidates are asked to come forward in two lines for the anointing, they should be seated on both sides of the centre aisle.

Candidates who are exercising particular ministries such as lector, leader of song, or are announcing the general intercessions or presenting the gifts, ought to be seated so that they can easily exercise their ministries.

Catechists and teachers should be seated so they can assist the candidates and sponsors when approaching the Bishop for anointing.

G. Ministers of Communion

In addition to the Bishop, priests and deacons present, it may be necessary to provide for extraordinary ministers of Communion. The Master of Ceremonies is not to be a minister of Communion.

H. Rehearsals

On several occasions during the period of catechesis, the candidate ought to rehearse the songs, acclamations, and responses for the celebration of confirmation.

The candidates ought to be taught to stand and respond in a loud and clear voice to the Bishop's questions during the homily.

Special attention ought to be given to the words which the candidate says to the Bishop and the responses which the candidate makes to the Bishop during the anointing. These are to be made in a loud, clear voice by the candidates.

When the candidate approaches the Bishop he/she says in a loud voice:

Candidate **Bishop, my name is N.**

During the anointing the candidate makes the following responses in a loud voice.

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

Candidate: **Amen.**

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate: **And with your spirit.**

Candidates also ought to study and reflect upon the scripture readings which will be used in the liturgy.

Candidates who will exercise the ministry of lector, serve as cantor, or who are announcing the general intercessions or presenting gifts need to be especially prepared.

A final general rehearsal is usually required. The purpose of such a rehearsal is to familiarize the candidates with the prayers and responses, songs and acclamations, and the gestures and processions which are unique to the confirmation liturgy.

The rehearsal of the servers may be done by a member of the pastoral staff or may be arranged with the assistant who will accompany the Bishop.

THE LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation begins immediately following the gospel proclamation.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The pastor or another priest, deacon, or catechist presents the candidates to the Bishop in these or similar words:

Bishop, I present to you the young people of N., parish who have completed a period of preparation for Confirmation. They have deepened their knowledge of Jesus Christ by

studying the truths of our faith. They have been strengthened by God's grace in the sacraments and have been supported by the prayers and example of our parish community. I now ask you to celebrate the completion of their initiation into the life of Christ and to seal them with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. THE HOMILY

The Bishop then addresses the candidates.

3. RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES The relationship of Baptism and Confirmation is emphasized by the renewal of the promises made at Baptism.

- a. The Bishop, standing at the chair, invites all to stand. Only the candidates respond to the Bishop's questions. The response to each question is: *I do.*
- b. The Bishop then confirms their profession of faith 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.*
- c. The whole congregation responds: Amen.

4. LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bishop, standing at the chair, invites all to pray for those to be confirmed.

With hands extended over the candidates, the Bishop alone says:

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. Amen.

5. ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The Bishop stands at the entrance of the sanctuary to anoint the candidates.

It is customary for the pastor to hold the chrism on the right side of the Bishop.

Candidates should stand in pairs close to the Bishop for the anointing;

the sponsors stand behind with their right hand on the shoulder of their respective candidates.

The candidate gives his/her name to the Bishop using the following words:

Bishop, my name is _____.

6. FORM OF ANOINTING

The Bishop 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 responds: *Amen.*

Then the Bishop says: *Peace be with you.*

The newly-confirmed responds: *And with your spirit.*

The Master of Ceremonies and servers will assist the Bishop to wash his hands following the anointing.

7. GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The General Intercessions follow immediately (the Creed is omitted). In the prayer of the faithful, the people of God exercise their priesthood by praying for all. The intercessions given in the rite provide a model for those preparing the petitions.

As a general rule, the sequence of petitions is:

- * for the needs of the Church
 - * for public authorities and the salvation of the world
 - * for those oppressed by any need
 - * for the local community
 - * for the newly-confirmed.

One or several of the newly-confirmed may announce the petitions. Usually about five petitions are sufficient.

Those who announce the petitions are to remain at the microphone until the Bishop has finished the concluding prayer.

Following the general intercessions, the liturgy continues with the presentation of the gifts and the celebration of the Eucharist.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR CONFIRMATION

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 11.1-4a	<i>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.</i>
Isaiah 42.1-3	<i>I have put my spirit upon my servant.</i>
Isaiah 61.1-3a, 6a, 8b-9	<i>The Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, and to give them the oil of gladness.</i>
Ezekiel 36.24-28	<i>A new spirit I will put within you.</i>
Joel 2.23a, 26-3.1-3a	<i>I will pour out my spirit on my servants.</i>

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Acts 1.3-8	<i>You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.</i>
Acts 2.1-6, 14, 22b-23, 32-33	<i>They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.</i>
Acts 8.1, 4, 14-17	<i>They laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.</i>
Acts 10.1, 33-34a, 36a, 37-44	<i>The Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.</i>
Acts 19.1b-6a	<i>Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?</i>
Romans 5.1-2, 5-8	<i>God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.</i>
Romans 8.14-17	<i>The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.</i>
Romans 8.26-27	<i>The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.</i>
1 Corinthians 12.4-13	<i>One and the same Spirit allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.</i>

Galatians 5.16-17, 22-23, 24-25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Ephesians 1.3a, 4a, 13-19a

You were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4.1-6

There is one body and one Spirit, one baptism.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 22.22-23, 25-26, 27, 30-31

R. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters.

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 9-10a, 11-12

R. Declare God's marvellous works among all the peoples.

Psalm 104.1ab+24, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34

R. Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 117.1, 2

R. You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 145.2-3, 4-5, 8-9, 10-11, 15-16, 21

R. I will bless your name for ever, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.16

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

John 15.26b, 27a

The Spirit of truth will testify on my behalf, says the Lord, and you also are to testify.

John 16.13a; 14.26d

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Revelation 1.5a, 6a

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead; he made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father.

Come, Holy Spirit; shine on us the radiance of your light.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.1-12a

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 16.24-27

If anyone wants to become my follower, let him deny himself.

Matthew 25.14-30

You have been trustworthy in a few things; enter into the joy of your master.

Mark 1.9-11

Jesus saw the Spirit descending on him.

Luke 4.16-22

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

Luke 8.4-10a, 11b-15

As for the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who hold fast to the word and bear fruit with patient endurance.

Luke 10.21-24

I thank you, Father, because you have revealed these things to infants.

John 7.37b-39

There shall flow rivers of living water.

John 14.15-17

The Spirit of truth will abide with you.

John 14.23-26

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

John 15.18-21, 26-27

The Spirit of truth, who comes from the Father, will testify on my behalf.

John 16.5b-7, 12-13a

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

MODEL INTERCESSIONS

In addition to the intercessions provided in the *Rite of Confirmation* (Canadian Edition) page 33, the following models are provided to assist those preparing the liturgy.

A. *Bishop:* Let us be one in prayer to God our Father as we are one in the faith, hope and love his Spirit gives.

Reader: our response to the petitions is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For our Holy Father, Pope N., our Bishop(s), N., and all who lead us in faith. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them in their ministry. We pray.
2. For Christian people throughout the world: May they be united in bearing witness to the death and resurrection of the Lord. We pray.
3. For the leaders of government in every nation: May they work for lasting peace in our world. We pray.
4. For those in our world who suffer because of war and violence, and from poverty and disease:
May their suffering soon come to an end. We pray.
5. For all who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit today:
May we remain strong in our faith and always call upon the Holy Spirit in our need.
We pray.

Bishop: God our Father, you pour out the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen your people in every generation. Hear our prayers today, and make us faithful witnesses to the power of your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

B. *Bishop:* *United in the Spirit of the Risen Lord, we now offer our prayers of petition.*

Reader: *Our response to the petitions is: Lord, graciously hear us.*

1. *For God's holy Church in every place: May we bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. We pray.*

2. *For all who serve in public office: May they dedicate their lives to promoting human dignity and defending the rights of the most needy. We pray.*
3. *For all who suffer because of war, injustice, poverty and disease: May they place their trust in God, and receive the help they need. We pray.*
4. *For the newly-confirmed, and for their families and friends: May all who have gathered for today's celebration be renewed in faith, hope and love. We pray.*
5. *For our parish community: May our good works shine forth and lead others to know God. We pray.*

Bishop: Ever-living God, source of every good gift, we offer our prayers today with confident faith. Grant us what we truly need and all that will give you glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEATING FOR CONFIRMATION

AN ENROLMENT CELEBRATION

This celebration may take place during a Sunday Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word to which parents, sponsors and members of the community have been invited.

After the homily, the celebrant calls the candidates forward and addresses them in these or similar words:

Dear candidates for Confirmation, you have already received the life of Christ in Baptism. You have been called by God and welcomed into the Catholic Christian community, the Church. On the day of your Baptism, your parents made promises for you; they spoke in your name.

You have decided to present yourselves as candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation. You have prepared for the celebration of this sacrament of initiation by prayer and study at school, in your homes, and in our parish community. As a parish community, we acknowledge your desire to be further initiated into the life of the Church.

We ask you now to join us in the renewal of our baptismal promises:

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Celebrant: 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?

All: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Celebrant: 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 celebrant may invite the candidates to offer a prayer together:

Celebrant: I invite you, candidates, to express your prayer to our heavenly Father, seeking the guidance of his Spirit.

Candidates: Most Loving Father, we present ourselves as candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Place your blessing upon our desire to serve.

May our presence here be a sign of our willingness to work for the good of others as well as our own good.

May we live up to the challenge which Jesus Christ offered to his disciples.

May our prayer be fulfilled through his Holy Spirit. Amen.

The celebrant concludes with the following prayer:

Almighty God, you sent your only Son to rescue us from the slavery of sin and to give us the freedom only your sons and daughters enjoy.

We pray for these candidates for Confirmation.

Strengthen them during these final days of preparation for the coming of your Holy Spirit so they will grow to be mature Christians in the fullness of Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The candidates are now invited to come forward and sign their names in a book. They may also receive a cross as a sign of their desire to follow Christ faithfully.

The celebration (outside of Mass) may conclude with the Lord's Prayer, a blessing and concluding song.

CONFIRMATION LITURGY PLANNING OUTLINE

This form should be completed and given to the Master of Ceremonies prior to the Confirmation liturgy:

ENTRANCE RITES

Entrance Hymn: _____

Welcome (optional) yes, by _____ no

Penitential Rite: sung recited OR Sprinkling Rite: yes no

Glory to God sung omitted

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading _____ proclaimed by _____

Responsorial Psalm _____ sung by _____

Second Reading: _____ proclaimed by _____

Gospel Reading: _____ proclaimed by _____

Gospel Acclamation: sung omitted

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Candidates by pastor or delegate. The Confirmation Liturgy takes place at the entrance of the sanctuary.

General Intercessions announced by: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts: _____

Optional Hymn: __ yes __ no

Eucharistic Acclamations sung: __ Holy, Holy __ Memorial Acclamation __ Amen

Our Father __ recited __ sung

Lamb of God __ recited __ sung

Hymn During Communion: _____

DISMISSAL RITES

Expression of Thanks (optional) __ yes, by _____
 __ no

Blessing __ usual __ solemn

Recessional Hymn (optional): _____