

PARISH CELEBRATION OF SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS (UNBAPTIZED)

537 After the homily, a priest, deacon, catechist or another person in charge of the catechumens' formation, or representative of the community, presents the catechumens using the following or similar words.

LEADER:

Father (N.) and Parishioners of (N.) Parish, we rejoice today because those on the catechumenate journey of faith are about to take a new step. God has called them and they have responded to this call. They will be sent to the Diocesan Celebration where Bishop Kmiec will celebrate with them the second step of their journey, the Rite of Election.

PRESIDER:

Those who are to be sent to the Rite of Election in Christ, come forward, together with your sponsors (godparents) as your name is called.

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the assembly.

Affirmation by Sponsors [and the Assembly]

PRESIDER:

We turn to you, sponsors, for testimony about these catechumens. Tell us of the conversion you have seen in their life; the example of faith they have lived.

Each sponsor, in his/her own words than speaks to the assembly about how they have seen their candidate taking their formation and Catholic way of life seriously and how God has been present in their life.

PRESIDER:

Is there anyone else present who has testimony to give on his/her behalf?

The Presider waits until there is no more testimony.

My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to Bishop Kmiec, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter Sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work He has begun in you.

They will not sign the scroll at this time, but will sign the Book of the Elect at the Diocesan Celebration.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES (THOSE PREVIOUSLY BAPTIZED)

540 A priest, deacon, catechist or person in charge of the candidates' catechetical formation, or representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

LEADER:

Father **(N.)** and Parishioners of **(N.)** Parish, we rejoice also today because some among us who have been previously baptized will be called by Bishop Kmiec to begin their final period of preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example.

PRESIDER:

Sponsors, please come forward with your candidates.

They come forward.

PRESIDER:

Sponsors, when your candidate's name is called please come forward with your candidate and speak on their behalf. Tell us how they have listened to the Word of Christ in this community and endeavored to follow His commands more perfectly.

One by one the names of the Candidates are called as they stand before the assembly and each sponsor speaks for their candidate in their own words.

PRESIDER: (After each sponsor finishes speaking)

Is there anyone else present who has testimony to give on his/her behalf?

The Presider waits until there is no more testimony.

PRESIDER:

And now, my dear friends, I address you. Your own sponsors (and this entire community) have spoken in your favor. The church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony and sends you to Bishop Kmiec, who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.

The Presider invites the candidates forward to sign the Scroll to be presented at the Rite of Election.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

PRESIDER:

Brothers and Sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter, the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. As we journey together to the Easter sacraments, these catechumens and candidates 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.

ASSISTING MINISTER:

That these catechumens and candidates may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord...

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

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

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's word, let us pray to the Lord...

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

That these catechumens and candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord...

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

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

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

*544 After the intercessions the **Presider**, with hands outstretched over the catechumens and candidates, says the following prayer:*

Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into His all embracing love.

Guide these catechumens and candidates
in the days and weeks ahead:
strengthen them in their vocation,
build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the spirit of your promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: AMEN.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS

*545 If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the catechumens are normally dismissed at this point by the **Presider** using these or similar words:*

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.