

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHOUT MASS

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

34. When those to be confirmed are assembled with their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful, the Celebrant approaches the sanctuary while all sing, if appropriate, a psalm or other suitable chant.

35. After making, together with the ministers, the usual reverence to the altar, the Celebrant greets the congregation:

The Lord be with you. *℞*. And with your spirit.

Then he says the prayer:

Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God,
that the Holy Spirit, coming near
and dwelling graciously with us,
may make of us a perfect temple of his glory.

Through Christ our Lord.

℞. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

36. The sacred celebration of the word of God takes place, in which at least one of the readings proposed for the Mass of Confirmation found in *Lectionary for Mass* (nos. 763-767).

37. If two or three readings are chosen, the traditional order of readings is followed, that is, from the Old Testament, the Apostle, and the Gospel. After the First and Second Reading there should be a psalm or another chant, but in its place sacred silence may also be observed.

38. After the Gospel, the candidates for Confirmation are presented by a catechist, in accordance with the custom of each region, in this way: if possible, each of those to be confirmed is called by name and individually approaches the sanctuary; but if they 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 they are assigned to a suitable place before the Celebrant.

THE HOMILY OR ADDRESS

22. A brief homily is given, 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.

He may do so in these or similar words:

The Apostles, who had received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of the Lord's promise, had the power to complete the work of Baptism by the giving of the Holy Spirit, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. When Saint Paul had laid his hands on certain people who had been baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

The Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, possess the same power and, either in their own right or through Priests lawfully appointed to fulfill this ministry, they confer the Holy Spirit on those who have already been born again in Baptism.

Even if today the coming of the Holy Spirit is no longer widely made manifest by the gift of tongues, we know by faith that the Spirit, through whom the love of God has been poured into our hearts and through whom the love of God has been poured into our hearts and through whom we are gathered in unity of faith and in diversity of callings, is received by us and is working invisibly to make the Church holy and one.

Dearly beloved, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which you are about to receive, will be a spiritual seal, by which you will be conformed to Christ and will be made more fully members of his Church. For Christ himself, anointed by the Holy Spirit in the baptism he received from John, was sent forth for the work of his ministry, to pour out on the earth the fire of the same Spirit.

Therefore, you who are already baptized will now receive the power of his Spirit and be signed with his Cross on your foreheads. And so, you must always bear witness to his Passion and Resurrection before the world, so that your manner of life, as the Apostle says, may be in every place the pleasing fragrance of Christ. His Mystical Body, which is the Church, the People of God, receives from him diverse graces, which the same Holy Spirit distributes to individuals for the building up of that Body in unity and love.

Be living members of this Church, therefore, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to serve all people like Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

And now, before you receive the Spirit, call to mind the faith which you professed in Baptism or which your parents and godparents professed with the Church.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

40. After the Homily the Celebrant questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

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

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

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

Those to be confirmed: I do.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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 Celebrant 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 gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying: Amen.

For the formula This is our faith, it is permitted to substitute, if appropriate, some other formula or even some suitable chant, by which the whole community is able to express its faith.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

41. Then the Celebrant, 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.

And all pray in silence for a while.

42. Then the Celebrant lays hands over all those to be confirmed saying:

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

43. The sacred Chrism is brought to the celebrant. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Celebrant. 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 Celebrant; or the one to be confirmed alone says his (her) own name.

44. The Celebrant 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 Celebrant adds: Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed: And with your spirit.

46. During the anointing, a suitable chant may be sung. After the anointing, the celebrant washes his hands.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

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

Celebrant: 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/minister: For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
that may bear witness to Christ the Lord
by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.
℞. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

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.
℞. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God
together with Francis our Pope, Lawrence 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.
℞. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

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 sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.
℞. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: 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.
℟. Amen.

THE RECITATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

48. All then say the Lord's Prayer, which is introduced by the Celebrant:

Dearly beloved, let us gather together our petitions,
praying with one voice,
as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

THE BLESSING

49. After this the Celebrant blesses all present. Instead of the usual blessing, the following blessing or Prayer over the People is used.

The deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation: Bow down for the blessing.

The Celebrant, 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.

℞. 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.

℞. 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.

℞. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

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

℞. Amen.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Instead of the preceding formula of blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used.

The Deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation:
Bow down for the blessing.

The Celebrant with hands extended over the people 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.

℞. Amen.

The Celebrant 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 for ever

Ṛ. Amen.