

# LITURGICAL PREPARATION

*for the*

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

### ADVANCE PREPARATION

- The Bishop celebrates the Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass. The pastor may request that Confirmation be celebrated outside of Mass if there is a good reason. When, because of large numbers, there are two Confirmations at the same parish on the same day, the second celebration will be outside of Mass.
- If there is to be photography - one professional photographer or videographer may be secured by the parish to record the ceremony and facilitate good order.
- All should be full and active participants, not spectators; a Psalmist proclaims the Psalm and a Cantor may assist the assembly in actively participating in the people's sung parts of the Liturgy. Often, the role of Psalmist and Cantor is combined. The responsorial psalm is proclaimed from the ambo.
- Be sure the altar is free of all clutter, papers, and even the corporal (this is placed on the altar at the Preparation of the Gifts).
- The Bishop must be fully aware and informed of the details in advance of the celebration. Therefore, all necessary information about the celebration should be provided to the Worship Office in advance. Go to [www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep](http://www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep) and complete the Liturgy Preparation Information input form at least four weeks before the Confirmation.
- A Master of Ceremonies will accompany the Bishop. The Master of Ceremonies is assigned by the Office of the Bishop. Please do not contact an MC directly. If one of the approved MCs has a connection to the parish, please inform the Office of the Bishop staff and it will be considered when scheduling MCs.
- The Master of Ceremonies is in communication with the Office of Worship staff and will prepare the necessary ritual binders for the celebration.
- All printed material to be distributed to the people (Worship Aids) to assist in their participation in the celebration is to be submitted to the Office of Worship [worship@diometuchen.org](mailto:worship@diometuchen.org) for review before printing. These drafts are to be sent at least *four weeks* prior to the celebration to allow for time for review and comment before printing. An electronic MSWord sample template of a people's participation aid is available at: [www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep](http://www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep). This template can be edited to reflect the community's pastoral circumstances. Once approved, a final version should be emailed to [worship@diometuchen.org](mailto:worship@diometuchen.org). A printed version no longer needs to be mailed to the Office of Worship. Please note: *the purpose of a people's printed guide is to assist in the full and active participation of the people. Any appearance of a "playbill" is to be avoided.*

## PRE-MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The parish policy regarding photography should have been communicated to parents in advance of the celebration. It is suggested that an additional announcement is made regarding the photography policy before the celebration begins.
- Silence all cell phones and electronic devices
- Remind parents and sponsors to refer to the people's printed guide for their responses to the dialog of the ritual. Also, refer all gathered to the same participation aid and indicate that it is provided so that all may actively participate in the celebration.

## ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The Candidates are seated in their places at least 10 *minutes before* Mass begins.

*The Bishop has no preference or policy for seating; Candidates/Sponsors may be seated in any fashion that is appropriate to facilitate good order in the celebration of the ritual.*

## ORDER OF PROCESSION

Knights of Columbus [optional]  
Thurifer with incense  
Cross Bearer [with 2 Candles]  
Additional Altar Assistants  
Ritual Book assistant  
Reader(s) [with Book of the Gospels, if used and if no Deacon present]  
Deacon [with Book of the Gospels, if used]  
Concelebrating Priests, two by two  
The Bishop  
[with Deacon[s] slightly behind the Bishop]  
Master of Ceremonies, and the two Assistants to the Bishop

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*After the Entrance and before the Sign of the Cross and Greeting*, the Pastor should briefly welcome the Bishop with a few words.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

- Penitential Act "Form C" will be used; the deacon, cantor or the choir offer the three invocations.

## GLORIA

- The Gloria is to be sung (said) as required by the rubrics. The Gloria is omitted during Lent.

## FIRST READING, PSALM RESPONSE AND SECOND READING:

- The Bishop's Office will inform you regarding the Scripture readings to prepare.
- Study additions of the Readings are available at: [www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep](http://www.diometuchen.org/confirmationprep)
- The Responsorial Psalm may be chosen from the options given in the Lectionary for *Ritual Masses, Confirmation* no. 766, 1-6.
- All Scripture readings—including the Psalm—are proclaimed from the ambo.
- When approaching the Altar from the main body of the church, the Reader and Psalmist (Cantor) bows to the Altar with a profound bow and then with a simple bow of the head to the Bishop. If approaching the ambo from a side location there is no bow.
- Photocopies of the readings should not be carried to the Ambo.

## GOSPEL

- The parish custom regarding the Gospel procession should be observed. Proclaiming the Gospel from a Book of the Gospels is preferred but is not necessary. If it is used incense may also be used and a procession with the Book of Gospels is appropriate according to parish custom.
- The Deacon [or in his absence, Priest] kneels for the Bishop's blessing.
- The Deacon brings the Gospel Book to the Bishop so he can reverence it following the proclamation of the Gospel.

## QUESTIONING OF THE CANDIDATES

- A dialogue [see attached] between the Bishop and the Pastor or other Pastoral Minister and the candidates takes place after the Gospel and before the homily *from a place other than the ambo*.
- The dialogue response of the candidates [see attached] should be printed in the people's participation aid.

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

- Only the Candidates stand and respond "*I do*" to the questions.
- There is no sung acclamation after the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

## LAYING ON OF HANDS/PRAYER

- Candidates remain standing for this prayer.

## ANOINTING

- Candidates should stand and the Sponsors should stand behind them, with their right hand on the Candidate's right shoulder.
- Candidates wear a nametag with his or her Confirmation name only; do not have anyone give names to the Bishop; since the candidate's hands should be empty, do not use cards [if used, they should be collected before Mass].
- Option A: The candidates are seated at the end of each pew with their family and friends. At the time of the anointing, the candidates remain in place and the Bishop moves to each candidate for the anointing. This option allows family members to witness the anointing more closely. [If you wish to discuss the details for this option, please contact Tony Varas who will offer assistance]  
Option B: Candidates may come forward in procession two-by-two.
- Ritual formula is to be rehearsed well with the candidates prepared to respond so that Bishop hears and understands their response:

*Bishop:*

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

**Candidate:**

**Amen.**

*Bishop:*

*Peace be with you.*

**Candidate:**

**And with your spirit.**

- Instrumental music or choral singing may accompany the ritual. However, its character should be soft and provide accompaniment to the spoken ritual dialog. Since the words of the dialog form an integral part of the ritual, they are to be clearly audible above the music.

## HAND WASHING

- The Bishop needs a bowl, a pitcher of water, **ONLY** one lemon cut in half, and a towel.

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

- The intentions provided in the parish resource packet are to be announced by the deacon. If there is no deacon the cantor or the reader may announce petitions. Any modifications require advance approval by the Worship Office.
- The intentions are announced from the ambo, or from another suitable place. (GIRM #71)

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

- Only Bread and Wine are presented; no other gifts should be included (with the exception of the parish offering, if that is the custom).
- Servers with the Cross [and candles] may accompany the gift bearers if this is parish custom.
- When preparing vessels for the presentation of bread and wine, normal parish custom should be followed.

#### HOLY COMMUNION

- **Note:** within the Diocese of Metuchen, if the Knights of Columbus are present they do not come up as ‘guardians’ during Communion.
- The singing of the Communion Chant/ (or Song) is to begin without delay while the Bishop is receiving the Sacrament. The singing is continued for as long as the Sacrament is being administered to the faithful. (GIRM #86) There is not to be a song following Communion (sometimes called a “meditation song”).

#### BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May be made following the Prayer after Communion from a suitable place but not from the ambo.
- Direction should be given as to photographs with the Bishop and/or the reception.

#### RECESSIONAL

- The Confirmandi always follow the Bishop; they do not leave before the Ministers of the Liturgy.
- The pastor [or his designate] escorts the Bishop to the place for photographs.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

- A suitable place is to be carefully prepared before Mass for photographs. The place for photos should allow for the easy flow of people and facilitate a large crowd.
- Either one group photo **OR** individual pictures may be taken.
- One individual from the parish is to be assigned to facilitate the picture-taking process after Mass. The pastor [or his designate] remains with the Bishop.

#### PASTORAL NOTE REGARDING LITURGICAL LEADERSHIP

The Bishop encourages full participation in all liturgical celebrations according to the diversity of roles envisioned by the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #28. Recognizing the unique stage of spiritual development of the typical confirmandi, either parish readers or confirmandi may serve as readers of scripture. The usual norm for distributing duties and ministries of the Mass that directs that each person “carry out solely but totally that which pertains to them” (GIRM 91) is not altered at other celebrations of the parish.

When preparing confirmandi for proclaiming the Word. Please take special care to rehearse their role at the microphone well in advance of the day of the celebration as well as practicing the parish’s protocol for readers (i.e. how to approach the altar and regress from the altar).

#### VESTURE OF THE CONFIRMANDI

According to parish custom, appropriate and modest attire that does not call undue attention to any individual is acceptable. In order to avoid the appearance that Confirmation is similar to a graduation from an academic institution, the use of gowns that closely resemble graduation attire is least appropriate. Stoles that resemble those worn by a priest or deacon are not to be worn by Confirmandi.