

DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM – QUINCEAÑERA GUIDELINES

The QUINCE Años celebration is a renewal of baptismal promises and a moment of giving thanks to God for the gift of life, family and faith. The USCCB acknowledges this celebration and provides good information on its website. Go to USCCB.org and on the home page in the search box type fifteen; then click on the Order for the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday. For Spanish, in the search box type quince.

In the Diocese of Birmingham there are three options to celebrate a Quinceañera Liturgy:

1. During a Sunday Liturgy, as an individual or as a group. This should be a very simple celebration since the teen and family are joining the Sunday assembly.
2. Special individual blessing offered for the Quinceañera outside of Mass (Liturgy of the Word). This can be celebrated on any day; the celebrant and family agree on. She is to be accompanied by her parents and godparents. Usually, the quinceañera is also accompanied by a court of 7 couples of Chambelanes (young gentlemen) and Damas (young ladies), who in addition to the Quinceañera will represent her fifteen years of life. This should be as simple as possible and approved by the celebrant.
3. Special individual Mass offered for the Quinceañera. This follows the same guidelines described in #2 above, only that the blessing will be incorporated within a Mass. This option is offered upon clergy's availability and discretion.

Quinceañera's Requirements:

-The teen must be a baptized Catholic, have received her First Communion, Penance and Confirmation, or be preparing for the reception of the Sacraments.

-The teen should be registered in the parish religious education program since the year prior to her 15 Celebration.

-The family of the quinceañera must be registered as parishioners of the Church where the quinceañera will take place and be attending weekend Mass. If parents are not registered and live in the boundaries of the Parish, they must register.

-The donation for the special individual Blessing or Quinceañera Mass is established by each Parish.

On the Quinceañera Celebration, the teen may use some special symbols, this is optional:

Rosary and/or medal of the Virgin Mary represent her consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Flowers** symbolize her youth and inner beauty. As a way to show teen's consecration to the Virgin Mary, a bouquet of flowers is offered to the Virgin at the end of the celebration. The teen is escorted by her parents to the statue or picture of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe and says a prayer.

A Crucifix reminds of Christ's love until death.

A ring is given by her dad or mom and represents Christian commitment to keep herself chaste and pure until marriage.

A Bible whose reading will enlighten the teen's walk through life.

A lighted Candle which reminds of the faith given to her in Baptism and that she is willing to renew. Tiara and/or jewelry.

Any of the above symbols may be used and blessed during the celebration.