

SENDING OF THE CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION
[optional]



PARISH CELEBRATION FOR
SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION AND
CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP
[optional]

Office of Worship
Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana
2020

CONTEXT

The Rite of Sending the Catechumens for Election [RCIA 106-117] is held at the conclusion of the period of the Catechumenate and which locale is the parish Church . In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ritual book there is also a combined *Rite of Sending the Unbaptized Catechumens to the Rite of Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop* [RCIA ,Appendix I, 2, 530-546]. This combined Rite is also an optional Rite.

Both Rites are celebrated at a suitable time prior to the rite of election; most often during Mass, but either could be done within a celebration of the word of God.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions some suggestions are made in the following adapted rites regarding social distancing and limiting the number of godparents/ sponsors. The physical arrangement in the worship space for the Catechumens, godparents, Candidates and sponsors will determine how the arrangement of the persons best works for health safety.

In 2021, on the First Sunday of Lent, the assumption remains that there will still be a need to social distance and abide by the state requirements regarding seating capacity within buildings. Thus, the current plan is to celebrate the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral for the unbaptized only.

Thus, what is provided here in adapted **RITE ONE** is the *Rite of Sending the Catechumens for Election* for the catechumens only.

However, if a parish still wishes to have both unbaptized catechumens and baptized candidates acknowledged by the parish, a combined *Rite of Sending the Unbaptized and Acknowledging the Baptized Candidates* is provided in adapted **RITE TWO** .

Remember, both of these are optional Rites.

RITE ONE:

Rite of Sending Catechumens For Election [optional]

After the homily, the person in charge of the Catechumen's initiation, [priest, deacon, catechists or representative of the community] presents the Catechumens, using these or similar words. Social distancing requires that the arrangement of the Catechumens may have to be modified as each is called forth; or perhaps the unbaptized will need to simply stand in place while the Assembly remains seated. The suitable arrangement will depend on the interior space of the Church. The Catechumen and godparent should be socially distanced from each other, the Assembly and the Presider.

LEADER: Reverend Father, these Catechumens, whom I now present to you, are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election celebrated this afternoon / _____ [next Sunday?] by Bishop Michael Duca.

PRESIDER: Those who are to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ, come forward [or stand in place], together with the one whom will be your godparent.

One by one, the Catechumens are called by name. Each Catechumen accompanied by a godparent comes forward [or stands in place] before the Presider.

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENT [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

The Presider addresses the Assembly in these or similar words.

PRESIDER: My dear friends, these Catechumens who have been preparing for the sacraments of initiation hope that they will be found ready to participate in the rite of election and be chosen in Christ for the Easter sacraments. It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the bishop.

The presider addresses the godparents:

PRESIDER: I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these Catechumens. Have these Catechumens taken their formation in the Gospel and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

GODPARENTS: They have.

PRESIDER: Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

GODPARENTS: They have.

PRESIDER: do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop for the rite of election?

GODPARENTS: We do.

The Presider may also ask the entire assembly to express their approval of the Catechumens.

PRESIDER [to the Catechumens]

My dear Catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to the bishop, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work God has begun in you.

The Catechumens may now sign the Book of the Elect which may be presented to the Bishop at the rite of election. For health concerns, the Book may be signed by each catechumen, using a different pen, either at this time, or afterwards, before the rite of election.

The community prays for the Catechumens by use of the following intentions. These may be adapted to fit various circumstances. If decided that after the dismissal of the Catechumens the usual Universal Prayers of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the Eucharist is to begin, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added following the intentions for the Catechumens.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS

PRESIDER:

My 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 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.

MINISTER:

- That these Catechumens may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord..
- That their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel , we pray to the Lord...
- That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God' word, let us pray to the Lord...
- That these Catechumens may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with J Jesus, let us pray to the Lord...
- That our community during this [or coming] Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord...

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS

After the Intercessions, the Presider, with hands outstretched over the Catechumens says the following prayer:

PRESIDER: 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 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.

ALL: Amen.

DISMISSAL

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the Catechumens are normally dismissed by either one of the following:

My dear friends, you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth and your life. In his name we send you forth from this community to celebrate with the Bishop the Lord's choice of you to be numbered among his elect. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in God's peace.

OR

My dear friends, this community now send 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.

[if there is no Liturgy of the Eucharist following addresses all]

PRESIDER Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

RITE TWO:

ADAPTED PARISH CELEBRATION FOR SENDING CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION BY THE BISHOP AND RECOGNIZING CANDIDATES PROGRESS IN FORMATION

After the homily, the person in charge of the Catechumen's initiation, [priest, deacon, catechists or representative of the community] presents the Catechumens, using these or similar words. Social distancing requires that the arrangement of the Catechumens may have to be modified as each is called forth; or perhaps the unbaptized will need to simply stand in place while the Assembly remains seated. The suitable arrangement will depend on the interior space of the Church.

LEADER: Reverend Father, these Catechumens, whom I now present to you, are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election celebrated this afternoon / _____ [next Sunday?] by Bishop Michael Duca.

PRESIDER: Those who are to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ, come forward [or stand in place], together with the one whom will be your godparent.

One by one, the Catechumens are called by name. Each Catechumen accompanied by a godparent comes forward [or stands in place] before the Presider.

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENT [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

The Presider addresses the Assembly in these or similar words.

PRESIDER: My dear friends, these Catechumens who have been preparing for the sacraments of initiation hope that they will be found ready to participate in the rite of election and be chosen in Christ for the Easter sacraments. It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the bishop.

The presider addresses the godparents:

PRESIDER: I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these Catechumens. Have these Catechumens taken their formation in the Gospel and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

GODPARENTS: They have.

PRESIDER: Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

GODPARENTS: They have.

PRESIDER: do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop for the rite of election?

GODPARENTS: We do.

The Presider may also ask the entire assembly to express their approval of the Catechumens.

PRESIDER [to the Catechumens]

My dear Catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to the bishop, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work God has begun in you.

The Catechumens may now sign the Book of the Elect which may be presented to the Bishop at the rite of election. For health concerns, the Book may be signed by each Catechumen, using a different pen, either at this time, or afterwards, before the rite of election.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The person in charge of the Candidates formation [priest, deacon, catechist or representative of the community, presents the Candidates, using the following or similar words:

LEADER: Reverend Father, I now present to you the Candidates who are beginning their final preparation for the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist [and /or; reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church] They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example. Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers on their way to full initiation [and/ or full communion.]

PRESIDER: Those who are to be recognized, come forward, [or stand in place] together with your sponsor.

[Given COVID-19 health considerations it may be preferable to have the Candidates stand in place with only one sponsor for each Candidate. Social distancing should be observed and the arrangement of the Candidates will be determined by the interior of the Church.

One by one the Candidates are called by name. Each Candidate, accompanied by a sponsor come forward and stands before the Presider. [or stands in place in the Assembly] Candidates and sponsors should be socially distanced from each other , the Assembly and the Presider.

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

The Presider addresses the Assembly in these or similar words:

PRESIDER: My dear friends, these Candidates, already one with us by reason of their baptism in Christ , have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire

During the period of their catechetical formation they have listened to the word of Christ and endeavored to follow his commands more perfectly; they have shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters in this community and joined with them in prayer.

And so I announce to all of you here that our community supports these candidates in their desire. Therefore I ask their sponsor to state their opinion once again so that all of you may hear:

Presider addresses the sponsors:

PRESIDER: As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to receive to complete their Christian initiation through the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist [or ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church ?]

SPONSORS: We do.

[If appropriate the Presider may also ask the entire Assembly to express its approval of the Candidates.]

PRESIDER: [speaks to the Candidates]. 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 your testimony and urge you on to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ, expressed through the sacraments of initiation at the coming Easter festivities.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

The community prays for the Catechumens and Candidates by using the following or similar words. If it is decided that after the dismissal of the Catechumen the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the Eucharist is to begin, intentions for the Church and the whole world may be added following the intentions for the Catechumens and Candidate.

PRESIDER: My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lords' 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.

MINISTER:

- That these Catechumens and Candidates may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord.....
- That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord...
- That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God' word, let us pray to the Lord...
- 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.....
- That our community during this [or coming] Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.....

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

After the Intercessions, the Presider, with hands outstretched over the Catechumens and Candidates says the following prayer:

PRESIDER: 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.

ALL: Amen.

DISMISSAL

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the Catechumens are normally dismissed by either one of the following:

My dear friends, you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth and your life. In his name we send you forth from this community to celebrate with the Bishop the Lord's choice of you to be numbered among his elect. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in God's peace.

OR

My dear friends, this community now send 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.

[if there is no Liturgy of the Eucharist following addresses all]

PRESIDER :Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.