The First Scrutiny

March 22, 2014
5:30 Mass
St Teresa of Avila
Scrutinies

- Ancient rites
- Celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent
- Directed to the Elect
The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good.

The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.
These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

Because they are asking for the three sacraments of initiation, the elect must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and his Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.
1st Scrutiny

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER FOR ELECT

After the homily, the elect with their godparents come forward and stand before the celebrant.

Celebrant:

I now invite the Elect with their Godparents/Sponsors to come forward.
Invitation to Silent Prayer

Celebrant addresses assembly:

*Today the Church calls the Elect to conversion.*

*To deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ*

*and to carry out the decision to love God above all.*

*Let us all pray at this time in silence for them*

*to be given a spirit of repentance,*

*a sense of sin*

*and strength of will to live in true freedom as children of God.*
Invitation to Silent Prayer

Celebrant addresses the Elect:

*My dear Elect, I invite you to join your prayers to this community of faith, and to kneel as we intercede to God on your behalf.*
Intercessions for the Elect

Celebrant:

Let us pray for these elect whom the Church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their long preparation and at the Paschal Feast find Christ in his sacraments.

Deacon or another minister:

That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may learn to know Christ, who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
Intercessions

That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit, who searches every heart, may help them to overcome their weakness through his power, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we ourselves in preparation for the Easter feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves to prayer, and persevere in our good works, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

That throughout the whole world whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.
Prayer of Exorcism

Celebrant: God of power,

You sent your Son to be our Savior.

Grant that these Elect,

who like the woman of Samaria, thirst for living water,

may turn to the Lord as they hear his word

and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses that weigh them down.

Protect them from vain reliance on self and defend them from the power of Satan.

Free them from the spirit of deceit,

so that, admitting the wrong they have done,

they may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen
Lord Jesus,

you are the fountain for which they thirst, you are the Master whom they seek.

In your presence they dare not claim to be without sin,

for you alone are the Holy One of God.

They open their hearts to you in faith, they confess their faults and lay bare their hidden wounds.

In your love free them from their infirmities, heal their sickness,

quench their thirst, and give them peace.

In the power of your name, which we call upon in faith,

stand by them now and heal them.

Rule over that spirit of evil, conquered by your rising from the dead.

Show your Elect the way of salvation in the Holy Spirit, that they may come to worship the Father in truth, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen
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.