

RITE OF ELECTION OR ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

129. After the readings (see no. 128), the celebrant who acts as delegate of the bishop, gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the elect along the path of the paschal mystery.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

130. After the homily, the priest in charge of the catechumens' initiation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

Reverend Father, Easter is drawing near, and so these catechumens, whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayers and example. Now they ask that after the celebration of the scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist.

The celebrant replies:

Those who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward, together with your godparents.

One by one, the candidates and godparents are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by a godparent (or godparents), comes forward and stands before the celebrant.

[If there are a great many candidates, all are presented in groups, for example, each group by its own catechist. But in this case, the catechists should be advised to have a special celebration beforehand in which they call each candidate forward by name.]

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

131. Then the celebrant addresses the assembly. If he has taken part in the earlier deliberation on the candidates' suitability (see no. 122), he may use either option A or option B or similar words; if he has not taken part in the earlier deliberation, he uses option B or similar words.

A

My dear friends, these catechumens have asked to be initiated into the sacramental life of the Church this Easter. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire. During the period of their preparation they have listened to

the word of Christ and endeavored to follow his commands; they have shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer. And so I announce to all of you here that our community has decided to call them to the sacraments. Therefore, I ask their godparents to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

He addresses the godparents:

As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates worthy to be admitted to the sacraments of Christian initiation?

Godparents: We do.

When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words:

Celebrant:

Now I ask you, the members of this community:

Are you willing to affirm the testimony expressed about these catechumens and support them in faith, prayer and example as we prepare to celebrate the Easter sacraments?

All:

We are.

B

God's holy Church wishes to know whether these candidates are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so I speak first of all to you their godparents.

He addresses the godparents:

Have they faithfully listened to God's word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents:

They have.

Celebrant:

Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents:

They have.

Celebrant:

Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents:

They have.

When appropriate in the circumstances, the celebrant may also ask the entire assembly to express its approval of the candidates in these or similar words:

Celebrant:

And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

All:

We are.

INVITATION AND ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

132. Then addressing the catechumens in the following or similar words, the celebrant advises them of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intention.

And now, my dear catechumens, I address you. Your own godparents and teachers [and this entire community] have spoken in your favor. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the eucharist?

Catechumens:

We do.

Celebrant:

Then offer your names for enrollment.

The candidates give their names, either going with their godparents to the celebrant or while remaining in place, and the actual inscription of the names may be carried out in various ways. The candidates may inscribe their names themselves or they may call out their names, which are inscribed by the godparents or by the minister who presented the candidates (see no. 130). As the enrollment is taking place, an appropriate song, for example, Psalm 16 or Psalm 33 with a refrain such as, "*Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own*" may be sung.

[If there are a great many candidates, the enrollment may simply consist in the presentation of a list of the names to the celebrant, with such words as: "**These are the names of the candidates**" or, when the bishop is celebrant and candidates from several parishes have been presented to him: "**These are the names of the candidates from the parish of N.**"]

ACT OF ADMISSION OR ELECTION

133. The celebrant briefly explains the significance of the enrollment that has just taken place. Then, turning to the candidates, he says the following or similar words.

N. and N., I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

Candidates:

Thanks be to God.

He continues:

God is always faithful to those he calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you.

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents and instructs them in the following or similar words.

Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.

He invites them to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care, or to make some other gesture to indicate the same intent.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT

134. The community may use either of the following formularies, options A or B, or a similar formulary to pray for the elect. The celebrant may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances.

[If it is decided, in accord with no. 137, that after the dismissal of the elect the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the elect.]

Celebrant:

My brothers and sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. These elect, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, 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.

A Assisting minister:

That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten season to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That our catechumens may always remember this day of their election and be grateful for the blessings they have received from heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That their teachers may always convey the beauty of God's word to those who search for it, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That their families, far from placing any obstacles in the way of these catechumens, may help them to follow the promptings of the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That our community, during this Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That those who have not yet overcome their hesitation may trust in Christ and come to join our community as our brothers and sisters, let us pray to the Lord:

W. Lord, hear our prayer.

B Assisting minister:

That these elect may find joy in daily prayer, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That, by praying to you often, they may grow ever closer to you, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may read your word and joyfully dwell on it in their hearts, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may humbly acknowledge their faults and work wholeheartedly to correct them, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may dedicate their daily work as a pleasing offering to you, we pray:

W. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That each day of Lent they may do something in your honor, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may abstain with courage from everything that defiles the 'heart, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may grow to love and seek virtue and holiness of life, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may renounce self and put others first, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That you will protect and bless their families, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

That they may share with others the joy they have found in their faith, we pray:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT

135. After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the elect, says one of the following prayers.

A

Lord God,

**you created the human race
and are the author of its renewal.**

**Bless all your adopted children and add these chosen ones
to the harvest of your new covenant. As true children of the promise,
may they rejoice in eternal life, won, not by the power of nature,
but through the mystery of your grace.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

B

**Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.**

**Guide the elect of your Church:
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.

R. Amen.

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

136. If the eucharist is to be celebrated, the elect are normally dismissed at this point by use of option A or B; if the elect are to stay for the celebration of the eucharist, option C is used; if the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the entire assembly is dismissed by use of option D.

A The celebrant dismisses the elect in these or similar words:

My dear elect, you have set out with us on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

The elect:

Amen.

B As an optional formulary for dismissing the catechumens, the celebrant may use these or similar words.

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.

C If for serious reasons the elect cannot leave (see no. 75.3) and must remain with the baptized, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the baptized do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these or similar words.

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

D The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

All:

Thanks be to God.

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

137. When the eucharist is to follow, intercessory prayer is resumed with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. But for pastoral reasons these general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.