

**TO: PASTORS, LITURGY DIRECTORS, LEADERSHIP PERSONS IN SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**FROM:** Father Mark Pautler, Chancellor

**RE:** The Liturgy for the Completion of Christian Initiation

1. The new policy concerning Completion of Christian Initiation for Baptized Catholics is normative (Policy 4.02.01, July 3, 1998). The intent of this policy is that candidates for Confirmation should complete their Christian initiation on that occasion through reception of the Holy Eucharist. This practice is the norm indicated in the Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation: Ordinarily confirmation takes place within Mass in order to express more clearly the fundamental connection of this sacrament with the entirety of Christian initiation. The latter reaches its culmination in the communion of the body and blood of Christ. The newly confirmed should therefore participate in the Eucharist which completes their Christian initiation. (Introduction to the Sacrament of Confirmation, III.13)
2. The candidates for completion of initiation may assist in the preparation of the liturgy through reviewing and selecting the readings. The readings may be taken from:
  - The Mass of the day, which is especially appropriate for Solemnities and Feasts
  - The Ritual Mass for Christian initiation (Lectionary nn. [752-756])
  - The Ritual Mass for Confirmation (Lectionary nn. [763-767])
  - The Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist (Lectionary nn. [904-909])

The three readings, responsorial psalm and Gospel acclamation may be drawn from these sources to give appropriate emphasis to the different facets of the celebration.

3. The proper prayers for the Liturgy are taken from the Mass for the celebration of Confirmation in the Sacramentary except on the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter and on Solemnities. On these occasions, the proper of the feast is used. Red or White vestments are worn.
4. The Bishop will bring the Roman Pontifical for use at Confirmation. A server should be available to hold the book.
5. It is highly desirable that a person's baptismal sponsor also serves as the sponsor for confirmation (cf. canon 893 §2). Parents may not serve as sponsors for their children, but a parent may "present" his/her child for confirmation. During the chrismation the sponsor (parent) places their right hand on the candidate's shoulder and announces: "Bishop, this is (Name)."
6. The candidates and sponsors should process in and out of the Church with the Bishop, priests, and other ministers.
7. Choose music appropriate to the celebration and the season and, if possible, sing the responsorial psalm, acclamations and parts of the Mass sung on more solemn occasions.
8. For the laying on of hands and the chrismation, the candidates stand in a single row in front of the sanctuary with their sponsors behind them. When their number is too large for this procedure, the laying on of hands is done *in globo*, and the candidates with their sponsors then approach the Bishop to receive the chrismation. Instruct the candidates to respond "AMEN" in a firm voice upon receiving the chrismation and acknowledge the Bishop's greeting of peace saying, "AND ALSO WITH YOU"