

B. RITE OF SENDING CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION BY THE BISHOP

This rite is used in parishes where there are only Candidates (those who have already been baptized and are seeking full communion with the Roman Catholic Church),¹ or when the sending of catechumens and candidates are separated (e.g., at separate Masses).

CALLING OF CANDIDATES

After the homily and an appropriate period of silence, a catechist addresses the assembly:

Cat: Fr. _____ and members of the Church, we have with us today candidates, who were baptized in other Christian denominations, who are beginning their final preparation for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They have found their 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 that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth for recognition [by Bishop _____ on _____].

P: Those who are to be recognized, please stand, as your name is called.

Cat: (Reads the names of the candidates in this manner: N, baptized on _____, at [First Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY], etc.)

As each name is called, the candidate stands in place, throughout the assembly.²

AFFIRMATION BY THE SPONSORS AND THE ASSEMBLY

When all are standing, the priest continues:

P: People of the Church, 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 Roman 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 sisters and brothers, and joined with us in prayer.

¹ See footnotes 19 & 21 below regarding the celebration of this rite throughout the year.

² See footnote #9 above.

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

Sponsors, your testimony represents the discernment of the whole Church community. As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates to be ready to be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist with us [at the Easter Vigil]?³

S: WE DO.

[Optional:

P: Then I ask you to give witness to their readiness.]

One of the sponsors may, at this point. Offer a brief testimony on behalf of the candidates, indicating their readiness for full communion.⁴

P: Brothers and sisters of the assembly: are you ready to support the testimony about these candidates -- expressed in your name by these sponsors -- and to include these candidates in your prayers and affection [as we move toward the Easter Triduum]?⁵

A: WE ARE.

P: My dear candidates, your own sponsors and this entire community have spoken in your favor. The Church, in the name of Christ, accepts their testimony and sends you to Bishop _____, who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES⁶

³ NSC states that “it is preferable that reception into full communion not take place at the Easter Vigil lest there be any confusion of such baptized Christians with the candidates for baptism possible misunderstanding of or even reflection upon the sacrament of baptism celebrated in another Church or ecclesial community, or any perceived triumphalism in the liturgical welcome into the Catholic Eucharistic community” (33). Rather, reception of such candidates should be happening at Sunday liturgies (NSC, 32) throughout the year, “determined according to the individual case” (NSC, 30).

⁴ See footnote # 13; the same applies to testimony about candidates.

⁵ Following on footnote #19, a parish with a year-round process for bringing baptized candidates into full communion might celebrate this particular rite several times in the course of the year. In such cases, the explicit references to the Easter Vigil and the Triduum would be eliminated.

⁶ If it is not your usual custom to sing the intercessions, consider doing so for this rite.

The priest addresses the assembly:

P: My sisters and brothers, we look forward to celebrating the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. As we continue to journey together to the joy of the sacraments, these 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.

Please stand, and face the candidates.

C: That our candidates may be freed from selfishness, and learn to put others first.

We pray:

A: Lord, hear our prayer

C: That their sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel.

We pray:

A: Lord...

C: That their catechists may always convey to them the beauty of God's word.

We pray:

A: Lord...

C: That these candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus.

We pray:

A: Lord...

C: That, with the poor and hungry of the world, we may pray, fast and give alms as the gospel teaches, making this (coming) Lent the springtime of salvation,

We pray:

A: Lord...

PRAYER OVER THE CANDIDATES

The priest extends his hands over the candidates, [and invites the assembly to do so as well]:

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

**Guide our 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.**

A: Amen.

**P: My dear candidates, 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.**

They take their places with the assembly. The candidates are not dismissed.⁷ The assembly continues with the Creed and Prayers of the Faithful, and the Mass proceeds as usual.

⁷ See previous footnote #10 regarding dismissals.