

PARISH CELEBRATION
FOR SENDING CATHECHUMENS FOR ELECTION
AND CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION

Diocese of Oakland

2015

1. This optional rite is provided for parishes whose adult catechumens will celebrate their election, and whose adult candidates for reception in to the full communion of the Catholic Church will celebrate their recognition at one of the Rites of Election and Recognition for the Diocese of Oakland at the Cathedral of Christ the Light.
2. This rite offers the local church community (parish) the opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens and candidates, and send them forth to the celebration at the cathedral assured of their care and support.
3. This rite is celebrated in the parish church at a suitable time prior to its scheduled Rite of Election and Recognition.
4. This rite takes place **after the Homily** at Mass.
5. In the catechesis of the community and in the celebration of these rites, care must be taken to maintain the **distinction between the unbaptized catechumens and the baptized candidates**.
6. In circumstances where the parish does not have both catechumens and candidates, adaptations to the rite may be made as appropriate.

BEFORE LITURGY

THE ELECT AND THEIR GODPARENTS, AND THE CANDIDATES WITH THEIR SPONSORS, ARE SEATED IN APPROPRIATE PLACES IN THE CHURCH. CLEAR DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN THE CATECHUMENS AND THE CANDIDATES.

THE LITURGY CONTINUES AS USUAL UNTIL AFTER THE HOMILY.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

AFTER THE HOMILY, THE PRESIDERS WILL INTRODUCE THE RITE IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

My friends,
These adults whom we now present
are beginning their final period of preparation
for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter.

They have recognized God's presence in their lives,
and have answered the call
to live more closely in the example of Jesus.
They now ask that we affirm the progress they have made
in their spiritual lives
and pray for them on this (first Sunday in Lent).

It is the privilege and the responsibility of this community
to affirm their readiness
before they go to our Cathedral
for the Rite of Acceptance and Recognition.

I now ask the RCIA Director (*or other representative*)
to come forward to present the catechumens to the parish.

THE RCIA DIRECTOR, OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE, COMES FORWARD AND PRESENTS THE CATECHUMENS IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

Reverend Father,
brothers and sisters of **N.** parish:

These catechumens are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation.

They will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist this Easter.

They have been studying and praying for _____
(months/years), and have found strength in God's grace and support in this 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 assurances of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to the Rite of Election on (specify the day).

THE PRESIDERS REPLIES:

**I now call those catechumens
who are to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ,
to come forward,
together with those who will be their godparents.**

ONE BY ONE, THE CATECHUMENS ARE CALLED BY NAME (BY THE RCIA DIRECTOR OR OTHER).
EACH CATECHUMEN, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR GODPARENTS, COMES FORWARD
AND STAND BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE GODPARENTS AND THE ASSEMBLY

THE PRESIDER ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLY IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

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 faith community
to inquire about their readiness
before they are presented at the rite of election.

THE PRESIDER NOW ADDRESSES THE GODPARENTS DIRECTLY:

I turn to you, godparents,
for your testimony about these catechumens.
Do you believe that they taken their formation in the Gospel
and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

THE GODPARENTS RESPOND:

We do.

PRESIDER:

Do you affirm that they have given evidence of their conversion
by the example of their lives?

THE GODPARENTS RESPOND:

We do.

PRESIDER:

**Do you judge them to be ready
to be presented at the Rite of Election?**

THE GODPARENTS RESPOND:

We do.

PRESIDER:

**And now I ask this faith community:
having heard the testimony of their catechists
and their godparents,
do you affirm their desire to be elected in Christ
and do you judge them prepared
to be presented at the Rite of Election
(If “yes, then respond by saying “We do”)?**

THE ASSEMBLY RESPONDS:

We do.

THE PRESIDER CONCLUDES THE AFFIRMATION BY THE FOLLOWING:

**My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends
you for election, where, in the name of Christ,
you will be called to the Easter sacraments.
May God bring to completion the good work
he has begun in you.**

IF THE SIGNING OF THE BOOK OF THE ELECT IS TO TAKE PLACE HERE, THE PRESIDER INVITES
THE CATECHUMENS TO ENTER THEIR NAMES INTO THE BOOK IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

**I now invite you to sign your names
in the Book of the Elect which will be presented
by this parish at the Rite of Election.**

THE CATECHUMENS COME FORWARD ONE BY ONE, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR GODPARENTS,
AND SIGN THE BOOK OF THE ELECT.

THEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR PLACES WITHIN THE ASSEMBLY.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

THE PRESIDERS CALLS FORWARD THE RCIA DIRECTOR AGAIN:

**I now ask the RCIA Director (*or other representative*)
to come forward to present the candidates for recognition
to the parish.**

THE RCIA DIRECTOR, OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE, COMES FORWARD AND PRESENTS THE CANDIDATES IN
THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

Reverend Father,
brothers and sisters of **N.** parish:

I now present to you these baptized 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 been studying and praying for _____
(**months/years**), and have found strength in God's grace and
support in this 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
assurances of our blessings and prayers as they go to our cathedral
for recognition on (**specify the day**).

THE PRESIDERS REPLIES:

**I now call those candidates seeking recognition
to come forward with your sponsors.**

ONE BY ONE, THE CANDIDATES ARE CALLED BY NAME (BY THE RCIA DIRECTOR OR OTHER).
EACH CANDIDATE, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR SPONSOR(S), COMES FORWARD
AND STANDS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

THE PRESIDER CONTINUES IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

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 formation
they have listened to the Word of God
and endeavored to follow the example of Christ more perfectly;
they have shared the company
of their Christian brothers and sisters in this community
and have joined with us in prayer.

And so I announce to all of you here
that this 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:

THE PRESIDER NOW ADDRESSES THE SPONSORS DIRECTLY:

As God is your witness,
do you consider these candidates ready
to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist,
(and to be received into the full communion
of the Catholic Church)?

THE SPONSORS RESPOND:

We do.

PRESIDER:

**And now I ask this faith community:
having heard the testimony of their catechists
and their sponsors,
do you consider these candidates ready
to be recognized by the Church for their progress
and to receive the fullness of faith at Easter?
(If “yes, then respond by saying “We do”)?**

THE ASSEMBLY RESPONDS:

We do.

THE PRESIDER CONCLUDES THE AFFIRMATION BY THE FOLLOWING:

My dear candidates,
I now address you.

**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 the Cathedral for recognition,
where you will be exhorted
to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.**

May God bless you in this endeavor.

THEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR PLACES IN THE ASSEMBLY.

BAPTIZED CANDIDATES DO NOT SIGN THE BOOK OF THE ELECT.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND THE CANDIDATES

THEN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY PRAYS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND THE CANDIDATES, USING THE FOLLOWING OR SIMILAR FORMULARY. IF THE GENERAL INTERCESSION OF THE MASS ARE TO BE OMITTED (RECOMMENDED), THEN INTENTIONS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD ARE TO BE ADDED HERE.

THE PRESIDER INTRODUCES THE INTENTIONS IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

Let us stand.

Let us now pray for our catechumens and candidates as they prepare for the celebration of the Easter sacraments, and for ourselves, as we offer up our needs and petitions to a loving God.

MINISTER (OTHER INTENTIONS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED AS DESIRED):

- That these catechumens and candidates may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel to them, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - That their catechists may always convey to them the beauty of God’s word, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - That these chosen catechumens and candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - That our community, during this Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer and Christian service, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- That our Church, a living witness to the presence of Christ in the world, may continue to spread the good News of Salvation to the poor, the broken, and the powerless, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - That our world, filled with war, hatred, and division, may come to know the peace, love, and unity of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
 - For the prayers of this community of faith, for the prayers we hold in the peace of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND THE CANDIDATES

AFTER THE INTERCESSIONS, THE PRESIDER, WITH HANDS OUTSTRETCHED
OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES, SAYS THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

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.**

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ALL ARE SEATED, EXCEPT THE CATECHUMENS (AND CANDIDATES), WHO REMAIN STANDING.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND THE CANDIDATES

THE CATECHUMENS (AND THE CANDIDATES) ARE CUSTOMARILY DISMISSED AT THIS POINT.
THE PRESIDER DISMISSES THEM IN THESE OR SIMILAR WORDS:

My dear catechumens (and candidates),
this community now sends you forth to reflect
more deeply upon the word of God and on the prayers
we have shared with you as you prepare for the Rites at the
Cathedral of Christ the Light.
Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you.
We look forward to the day, this Easter,
when you will share fully with us at the Lord's table.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

THE CATECHUMENS (AND CANDIDATES) DEPART.
THE PROFESSION OF FAITH AND THE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (IF INCLUDED EARLIER) ARE OMITTED.
MASS CONTINUES WITH THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST AS USUAL.