

# PREPARATION FOR RITE OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

*Kindly distribute copies to those involved in the planning of the parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

## PREPARATIONS IN GENERAL

- The usual examination of the candidates for Confirmation should be conducted by the Pastor or his designate on a day prior to the celebration of Confirmation.
- The parish sacramental reports should be available for the Bishop's review during his visit.
- The Bishop usually arrives about twenty to thirty minutes before the Mass is scheduled to begin.
- The Bishop would be happy to be greeted by the pastor, if this is possible.
- Please set aside a room for the Bishop to vest.
- Please arrange to have a simple meal after Mass in the rectory or parish facilities.

## PREPARATION FOR THE LITURGY

- **The ritual Mass for Confirmation** with its readings is the Mass usually celebrated at the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, on Solemnities, Sundays of Lent and Easter, as well as days within the Octave of Easter, the Mass of the day with its proper readings must be used. If in the **Ordo** a votive mass or ritual mass is allowed on the day of your parish's Confirmation this will be indicated on the left hand side of the day under the color of the vestment.
- The Bishop should have a worship aid or music hymnal at his chair.
- The Bishop prefers to use the parish vestments (chasuble and stole) for the Mass and so does not bring them with him.

*Whenever the Ritual Mass of Confirmation is permitted, white or red vestments may be worn.*

*Violet vestments are to be worn on the Sundays of Lent. White or red vestments are preferred for the weekdays of the Lenten season unless the regulations dictate otherwise.*

*White vestments are to be worn when Confirmation is celebrated during the Easter Season.*

- The Bishop will bring the Sacred Chrism. However, please have the parish supply of Chrism available in case of an emergency.
- The Bishop always has a Master of Ceremonies accompany him.
- Seven altar servers are optimal for a Pontifical Mass: thurifer, cross bearer, two servers, miter bearer, crozier bearer, and book bearer. **It is necessary to have at least six.** It is preferable that servers be those who are experienced and of junior or senior high school age. The Master of Ceremonies will meet with the servers prior to the liturgy to review the specific details of the Mass and Confirmation Rite.
- Three hand towels will be needed for three hand washings, as well as a plate with a few pieces of bread and lemon cut into quartered pieces.
- The confirmandi are to be seated in front pews of the Church. They should not be dispersed among the sponsors. Boys are to sit on one side and girls on the other side.
- Sufficient hosts, wine, chalices and ciboria, as well as purificators and corporals should be prepared in advance of the Mass by the pastor or the sacristan. The Bishop respectfully requests that the reserved Eucharist not be used for the communion of the faithful. Please prepare accordingly.
- The distribution of Holy Communion under both species is preferred if this is the custom of the parish.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

### Priests

- Concelebrants should wear the diocesan chasuble and stole, except for the Chaplains to the Bishop, who may be vested in chasubles similar to the Bishop's, if they are available.
- If possible, concelebrants should be seated together in the Sanctuary area with easy access to the altar for the *Eucharistic Prayer*.

### Deacons

- Deacons who are functioning liturgically should wear dalmatics, if they are available, and be seated in the Sanctuary area. If a deacon is not present, a concelebrant proclaims the *Gospel* and assists at the altar. The Deacon of the Word will carry the Book of Gospels in procession.

### Other Liturgical Ministers

- The cantor, the psalmist, the choir, lectors and, if needed, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, should be those trained members of the parish who normally carry out these roles in the parish.
- If there are not enough priests and/or deacons to distribute Holy Communion the Extraordinary Ministers should move to the altar after the Bishop receives Holy Communion from the chalice.
- The Cantor should lead the hymns and acclamations from the sanctuary area.
- The Psalmist should chant the psalm from the ambo if possible.
- The lectors should be adults, and no confirmand is to be a lector or reader of the *General Intercessions*.
- If a deacon is present, he should read the *General Intercessions*.

## THE LITURGY

### Introductory Rites

- Ideally, the confirmandi should be seated at least 5 minutes before the beginning of Mass.
- The procession for the Mass usually moves from the rectory to the church unless the layout of the parish complex or weather require otherwise.
- If there is a *Book of the Gospels* it should be carried in the procession by the deacon, or in the absence of a deacon, the concelebrant who will proclaim the Gospel. It should be carried ahead of other deacons and the priest-concelebrants. *The Book of the Gospels* is to be placed flat and closed upon the altar. *The Book of the Gospels* is not carried in the procession at the end of Mass.
- The *Entrance Hymn*, sung by all, should accompany the procession and introduce the congregation to the mystery of the season or the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is not necessary for all the hymns at this celebration to be strictly associated with the Holy Spirit. In fact, any hymn to the Holy Trinity is most appropriate and seasonal hymns, especially during the Easter season, should be sung.
- The *Gloria* should be sung at a Confirmation (**except on Sundays of Lent and Advent**). The text must be faithful to the translation in the *Roman Missal*.

## Liturgy of the Word

- The Lectionary for Mass provides the Scripture readings and the chants between the readings for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamations are to be sung. The text of the sung Responsorial Psalm must be faithful to the translation found in the Lectionary. Silence follows the First Reading, the Second Reading, and the Homily. The readings are to be proclaimed by experienced adults and not by the candidates. **N.B. In the Easter Season, all the readings are from the New Testament with the first being from the Act of the Apostles. (CF #74, Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass.)**
- If possible the deacon will proclaim the Gospel. (In his absence a concelebrant should be chosen to perform the deacon functions.) The deacon or concelebrating priest asks for the Bishop's blessing before the Gospel. After reading the Gospel, without reverencing the book himself, he brings the book open to the Bishop, so that the Bishop may reverence the book. The Bishop may bless the assembly with the Book of the Gospels. (The assembly should remain standing for this blessing.)

## Sacrament of Confirmation

- After the proclamation of the Gospel, the *Presentation of the Candidates* is made by the Pastor. A model for this presentation (which may be adapted) is included in this mailing. **The candidates alone stand as they are presented** for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The congregation meanwhile is seated. After the Presentation of the Candidates, the Pastor should ask the candidates to be seated.
- The Bishop will deliver the Homily and will enter into dialogue with the confirmandi at this time.
- The *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* takes place between the Bishop and the candidates. The candidates alone stand with the Bishop, who will extend his hands at the Laying on of Hands. The congregation remains seated.
- For the *Anointing with Chrism* the deacon [or in his absence a concelebrant] brings the Sacred Chrism to the Bishop. The candidates come forward two by two, and **stand** in front of him since he will stand for the anointing. Please ensure that the candidates stand close enough to the Bishop so he may reach them. As soon as one child is confirmed, the child next in line fills his or her place, so that there are always two candidates standing before the Bishop. Two chaplains will announce the names of the candidates to the Bishop.
- All candidates should know by heart their responses to the Bishop's words for the Sacrament of Confirmation:  
Bishop: Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.      **Candidate: Amen.**  
Bishop: Peace be with you.      **Candidate: And with your spirit.**
- During the anointing, a suitable hymn should be sung.
- The *Prayers of the Faithful*, prepared by the parish, follow the anointing with Chrism and are introduced and concluded by the Bishop. The deacon or lector reads or sings the petitions.

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Sufficient hosts for all and some wine should be brought forward by the newly-confirmed who should be instructed to go to the Bishop once the altar is prepared. [Please await the signal of the Master of Ceremonies before proceeding to the Bishop with these gifts.] A hymn or instrumental music may accompany the *Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts*. The Bishop will incense the gifts and the altar. The deacon (or in his absence a concelebrant) should incense the Bishop, the clergy and the congregation. **The music for the Offertory should accompany these incensations and conclude only when the deacon has incensed the congregation.**
  - Please note that only bread, wine and, if desired, gifts for the poor may be presented. Symbols, flowers, pictures, etc. are not to be presented.

- The Eucharistic Acclamations are to be sung and must be faithful to the translation in the *Roman Missal*.
- The pastor should designate the ministers of Holy Communion and should notify them about their stations before the Mass begins. There should be sufficient ministers of Holy Communion so that its distribution is not unduly prolonged and can be carried out reverently.

### **Concluding Rite**

- Any remarks that are made by the Pastor are to take place only *after* the post-communion prayer is completed. If such remarks are to be made, the Pastor is kindly asked to inform the Master of Ceremonies before Mass.

### **Recessional**

- When the Recessional Hymn begins, the Knights of Columbus, if present, will move to the front of the church to begin the recession followed immediately by the liturgical procession. The newly-confirmed will recess immediately behind the liturgical procession.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

### **Group Picture**

- The Bishop prefers that if a photographer is there to take a group picture, if possible the picture be taken 10 minutes before the Mass begins in the parish hall or at the front of the church in daylight.

### **Pictures During Mass**

- A photographer or other members of the assembly may take pictures during the Mass if this is able to be done discreetly and in cooperation with the directives of the Master of Ceremonies. Please ask that no flash be used during the ceremony.

### **Individual Pictures after Mass**

- When Mass is ended, the Bishop recesses to the doors of the church where he will have an opportunity to greet the newly confirmed and the congregation. After the Bishop has greeted the congregation, he will be happy to have his picture taken informally with any of the newly-confirmed if they approach him at this time. It is requested that families take only **one photo** at this time.

## **CELL PHONES**

- Prior to the start of Mass, an announcement should be made asking all present to silence cell phones.

## **RESPONSE FORM**

- Please complete the enclosed Response Form and return by mail, email or fax two weeks before the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*If a Worship Aid is being prepared it must include the secured copyright permissions for the music reprinted in it.*