

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION LITURGICAL GUIDELINES\*

*The following guidelines are intended to assist parishes in preparing the **Rite of Confirmation Within Mass**. The rite, with its prayers and instructions, is to be followed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. If in doubt, please call the Office of Worship. The English text for the rite may be found in The Rites, Volume One; the Spanish text for the rite may be found in The Rite of Confirmation – Bilingual Edition available from USCCB Publications.*

According to the Confirmation ritual, the readings may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day or from texts for Confirmation in the *Lectionary* and listed in the Rite itself. On Easter weekdays except the first week after Easter, the reading may be taken from the Rite (*Ritual Masses I. 4. Confirmation #764-768*). On Sundays and solemnities, the readings of the day must be used. If in doubt, call the Office of Worship.

The celebrant will meet with the confirmandi in the parish hall half an hour before the Confirmation begins.

### 1. Mass Texts:

a) On Sundays of Easter, on the weekdays of the first week of Easter and on all Solemnities, the prayers and readings of the day must be used.

b) On Easter weekdays, after the first week of Easter, if Ritual Masses are allowed on that day, the prayers and readings may be taken from the Rite of Confirmation (*Ritual Mass I. 4. Confirmation #764-768 in the Sacramentary; nos. 764-784 in the Lectionary*) using the Preface of the Holy Spirit and red vestments.

*To determine the Mass texts (proper prayers and readings) that may be used, refer to the Ordo.*

- *If **S** is next to **MASS**, it is a proper solemnity and the prayers and readings of the day must be used.*
- *If you see **V1**, **V2**, or **V3** next to **MASS**, a Ritual Mass (one in which a “rite” occurs) is permitted. On days when Ritual Masses are permitted, the Ritual Mass for Confirmation with its proper readings may be celebrated. See the Ritual Mass for Confirmation in the Sacramentary for the proper prayers; see the Lectionary nos. 764-784 for the readings.*

2. The celebration of Confirmation is a solemn occasion for the parish and it is appropriate that as much singing as possible takes place. While a choir and song leader are appropriate, it is important that the assembly be able to fully participate, both in the responses and in the singing. Since many friends and relatives are welcomed by the parish community at this time, familiar hymns ought to be considered.
3. The candidates for Confirmation are to be reminded to dress appropriately.
4. The assembly should be encouraged to refrain from taking flash pictures during the liturgy. The celebrant is available after the Mass for photos.

### ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- Confirmation candidates, with their sponsors, may take part in the Entrance procession, if it is not too cumbersome. They will be expected to reverence the altar

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\* While the guidelines reference the Archbishop as presider they are also to be followed when his delegates preside (in this Archdiocese, usually the Chancellor and the Vicar General).

with a bow (or genuflection if the tabernacle is present in the sanctuary), before moving into their seats. The candidates and all in the procession carry worship aids, if necessary, so that they may sing the entrance song with the assembly.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

- It is most fitting that the Sprinkling Rite is used since it more clearly emphasizes the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation as sacraments of Christian Initiation. The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water is found in the Introductory Rites of the Sacramentary. A concelebrant or deacon may assist the Archbishop in sprinkling the assembly, if needed. Appropriate music is sung while all are being sprinkled.
- The Gloria is sung (though not as part of the Sprinkling Rite) unless Confirmation takes place in Advent or Lent, which is most unusual in the Archdiocese.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Readings are proclaimed from the Lectionary, not from a missalette or a sheet of paper. The Gospel is proclaimed from the Book of the Gospels.
- Lectors are to be trained and experienced in proclaiming God's Word. If Confirmation candidates are chosen to proclaim the Word, they need to be thoroughly rehearsed in order to proclaim the Scripture with meaning and understanding.
- The psalm (or at least the refrain) is sung.
- The Acclamation before the Gospel is sung. The Book of the Gospels is processed to the ambo as the acclamation is sung.
- A deacon proclaims the Gospel. If there is no deacon, a priest proclaims the Gospel.
- The Profession of Faith is omitted since the candidates renew their baptismal promises during the Rite of Confirmation.

### RITE OF CONFIRMATION *(numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs in the Rite of Confirmation)*

- **Presentation of the Candidates** (21): ***Before the homily, the pastor or parish life coordinator presents the candidates to the Archbishop. The pastor or catechist then calls all of the candidates by name. When called, the candidate stands, responds "present" and remains standing until instructed by the MC or the Archbishop to be seated.***
- **Homily or Instruction** (22): The Archbishop addresses the candidates in the homily. *(with mitre)*
- **Renewal of Baptismal Promises** (23): After the homily, the Archbishop leads the candidates in the renewal of the Baptismal promises. Candidates are to be familiar with the baptismal promises and prepared to answer with a strong "I do" at the appropriate times.
- **The Laying on of Hands** (24-25): The Archbishop and concelebrating priests impose hands over those to be confirmed. *(During the Easter season all remain standing).*
- **The Anointing with Chrism** (26-29)
  - ∞ The Archbishop goes to the main aisle. *(mitre and crosier)*
  - ∞ The pastor assists the Archbishop with the sacred chrism
  - ∞ The candidates approach the Archbishop with their sponsors.
  - ∞ The Confirmation name is printed clearly on a card which is given to the deacon or pastor who speaks the name to the Archbishop. This card indicates if the confirmandi needs to be addressed in Spanish.
  - ∞ The sponsor places his/her hand on the candidate's right shoulder during the anointing.
  - ∞ The candidate responds twice during the anointing: "Amen" *and* "And also with you". The candidates should know their responses.

- ∞ Appropriate liturgical music may be sung or played softly during the anointing with sacred chrism, but not until after several candidates have been confirmed.
- ∞ Members of the assembly should remain in their seats rather than attempt to come forward and take pictures during the anointing.

#### **AFTER CONFIRMATION**

- ∞ The Archbishop goes to his chair and stands for washing his hands.
- ∞ The MC or pastor removes the mitre (*give to server*) and the crosier is handed to the MC / server.
- ∞ The MC makes sure that:
  - ✓ *a server stands in front of the Archbishop with a dish of cut lemons for him to use to remove the oil (use real lemons, not lemon juice);*
  - ✓ *the server leaves and two other servers come with a bowl, towel and pitcher of water for the Archbishop to wash his hands.*
  - ✓ *when this is completed, the Archbishop introduces the General Intercessions.*

#### **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (30)**

- The Intercessions are proclaimed by the deacon or a person who has experience in doing this. (Two persons are acceptable if the intercessions are to be read/sung in different languages). If Confirmation candidates are chosen to do this, they should be well rehearsed and be able to speak the intercessions prayerfully.
- In general, the intercessions should follow the format outlined in the Rite of Confirmation

#### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST (31)**

- Mass proceeds as usual.
- Eucharistic Acclamations (*Holy, Memorial, Amen*) are sung.
- It is most appropriate that Communion under Both Kinds be offered to the assembly.

#### **COMMUNION RITE**

- Communion song(s) accompany the Communion Procession. The song begins immediately after “Behold the Lamb of God . . .” during the communion of the presider and concelebrants. The songs are preferably sung by all, or by the assembly singing the refrain and choir or cantor singing the verses. It is important that the song(s) for the Communion Procession are liturgically appropriate and known by the entire assembly.

#### **CONFIRMATION REMEMBRANCES**

- If the parish wishes to present the Confirmandi with a remembrance of their Confirmation, a cross or a religious pin or article is appropriate. A stole is never appropriate, as it is a sign of ordination.