



FROM THE DESK OF REVEREND JAMES WILLIAM BESSERT

Catholic Diocese of Saginaw + Office of Liturgy + 5800 Weiss Street + Saginaw, Michigan 48603-2762

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Priests, Deacons and Directors of Parish Life
DATE: June 3, 2020 + Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
RE: Celebrations of the Sacraments in Phase 2 & 3

Regarding the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, the following is what was previously sent to you in the *Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols for the Resumption of Public Masses* (and has since been posted on our diocesan website):

D. Public Masses with Strict Limits On Public Gatherings and Strict Physical Distancing

- Priority for attending these earliest Masses should be given to the Elect, Candidates for Full Communion, and those assisting these two groups for entrance into the Catholic Church. Directives for completion of RCIA and sacramental initiation of these groups will be forthcoming from the Office of Liturgy.
- Confirmations and Celebration of First Eucharist scheduled for the remainder of 2020 can begin to be celebrated if the candidates have adequately completed their preparation. Delegation for priests to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation will be forth coming. Plans and instructions for their celebration will soon be provided to parishes by the Office of Worship.
- The celebration of these sacraments could be spread out over the course of the summer and take place during a weekday Mass adhering to these social distancing guidelines and protocols.

For the sake of clarification, it was assumed that parishes would center their attention and efforts in preparing to return to the public celebrations of weekday and weekend Masses. Last week was the “window of opportunity” to do so and many of our parishes have indeed done so – while some others are gearing up this week. It was evident that this would require some important attention to details and the involvement of countless individuals – parish staffs and volunteers – to accomplish this endeavor.

Obviously, you (like those of us at the diocesan level) are now getting inquiries about the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. As outlined in “Section D” of the *Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols for the Resumption of Public Masses* (see above), the highest priority is to be given to the Elect and Candidates. Bishop Gruss has issued a decree for all priests to have the faculty to administer the Order of Confirmation to those already Baptized Catholics (all other candidates for Confirmation do not need delegation from the bishop).

Attached to this communication are the liturgical guidelines previously promised, and they include:

- ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] in Exceptional Circumstances***

Bishop Gruss has approved this ritual text for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) of the Elect (with reception of all three sacraments) and the Candidates for Reception Into Full Communion in the Catholic Church (with reception of Confirmation and Eucharist) – for those who are age seven (7) and older. As likewise mentioned in “Section D” (see above): The celebration of these sacraments could be spread out over the course of the summer and take place during a weekday Mass adhering to all the social distancing guidelines and protocols. The decree of delegation is until the end of the calendar year (December 31, 2020).

NB: Please, first “master” the art of celebration of the Eucharist before you begin to schedule and/or integrate these celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation into weekday Masses. The intent of weekday Masses is to provide greater sensitivity to the length of the liturgical rites, the inclusion of Elect’s and Candidate’s sponsors, family and friends with limited seating capacity, AND the necessity for the priest-president to “cleanse and sanitize” after administering a Chrismation to each person. Moreover, carefully study and discuss with your RCIA (or Catechumenate) directors/coordinators, the changes made to the RCIA rites (adapted for use during the COVID-19 pandemic).

- ***Order of Confirmation*** (for those completing the Sacraments of Initiation with the Reception of Confirmation and Eucharist)

- I: **Parish Instructions for the Order of Confirmation (Within Mass) Celebrated by a Delegated Priest-President**
- II: **Presentation of the Candidates**
- III: **The Order of Confirmation**

Bishop Gruss has approved this ritual text for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation (which is now called the “Order of Confirmation”). As likewise mentioned in “Section D” (see above): The celebration of the Order of Confirmation and Reception of First Eucharist could be spread out over the course of the summer and take place during a weekday Mass adhering to all the social distancing guidelines and protocols. The decree of delegation is until the end of the calendar year (December 31, 2020).

NB: Please, first “master” the art of celebration of the Eucharist before you begin to schedule and/or integrate these celebrations of the Sacraments of Confirmation AND First Eucharist into weekday Masses. The intent of weekday Masses is to provide greater sensitivity to the length of the liturgical rites, the inclusion of Candidate’s sponsors, family and friends with limited seating capacity, AND the necessity for the priest-president to “cleanse and sanitize” after administering a Chrismation to each person. Moreover, carefully study and discuss with your Director/Coordinator of Faith Formation, the changes made to the liturgical rites (adapted for use during the COVID-19 pandemic).

- ***Reception of First Holy Communion*** (for those completing the Sacraments of Initiation with the Reception of Confirmation and Eucharist)

While the distinctive “Instructions” and the Order of Confirmation clearly provide all the directives for the celebration of Confirmation, there remains all the questions about the Reception of First Eucharist:

Some Important Instructions:

- I: After the Order of Confirmation has been administered, the Presider then does a final washing of his hands (with hot soapy water and lemon juice) and returns to his chair. The Mass continues with the Universal Prayer and is followed by The Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- II: The **Roman Missal** provides an instruction for The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (in Part IV: The Liturgy of the Eucharist - #64) that reads: “Before the **Ecce Agnus Dei** {Behold the Lamb of God}, the priest may briefly address the newly baptized (and received) about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of Initiation and the center of the whole of Christian life.” It seems appropriate to do the same at the Mass with the celebration of the Reception of Confirmation and Eucharist (given these exceptional circumstances).
- III: Each candidate for Eucharist is to come forward individually AFTER MASS (according to the ***Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols for the Resumption of Public Masses***) and receives ONLY the Body of Christ adhering to all the social distancing guidelines and protocols.
- IV: Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there CANNOT be any lingering for photo opportunities once Holy Communion is received – and like all of the Faithful present – depart the worship space immediately.
- V: In conversation with Peg McEvoy (from the Office of Faith Formation), we are pastorally suggesting that, once all the children of the parish have completed their Sacraments of Initiation (with the reception of Confirmation and Eucharist), AND we have moved into Phase 4 (the “new normal”), the parish might consider a “Reunion Mass” at any particular weekend. This would afford all the children an opportunity to return and be recognized by the parish community. In addition, be given the occasion for a group photo and parish reception.

Finally, a word about the Order of Baptism (of infants/children under the age of 7): It would seem that all of the current guidelines and protocols, in addition to all the liturgical adaptations outlined in this MEMO and within the rituals, would apply to the scheduling and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism within Mass. Hence, “mastering” the new rite itself, then begin with weekday Masses with the Baptism of one (1) child as we move hopefully forward Phase V. It is imperative that all the specific new “rubrics” put into place for cleansing and sanitizing (for example Holy Water and Chrismation) AND all the requirements of social distancing be maintained. These are uncharted waters – so please be attentive to details and cautious as to protecting the health and well-being of these vulnerable infants/children and their families.

NB: If you have any questions – whatsoever – please do call me at the Office of Liturgy (or on my cellular phone: 989-859-8033) so that I may assist you in implementing these guidelines and rituals within your parish communities.

All peace and good!



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS
[RCIA]
IN
EXCEPTIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES**



**Approved
for Use in the
Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
by the Most Reverend Robert W. Gruss
June 1, 2020
*Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church***

**Prepared by the Diocesan Office of Liturgy
(For Use during Phase II & III of the COVID-19 Pandemic 2020)**

Introduction:

After the homily, the Priest-celebrant invites elect and godparents to go to the font. No one else should be permitted to accompany them. Social distancing must be maintained. If the sanctuary is small, elect and godparent could be called one at a time. Each parish must develop a plan according to its own needs and limitations.

Because the Priest-celebrant has intimate contact with each person when he is administering the sacraments, he **MUST** wear a face mask.

[However, if the parish only has baptized candidates seeking full communion, please turn to page 6: **THE RECEPTION OF CANDIDATES INTO FULL COMMUNION**].

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR THE ELECT

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Preparation for multiple baptisms include having sufficient water in a separate pitcher that can be blessed. Since water cannot be reused after each baptism, water is directly poured on each elect's head into the baptismal font. Fresh water from the pitcher is to be used each time. After the liturgy, water can be disposed of into the ground. The baptismal font must then be sanitized.

If time is a concern, the "Blessing of the Water" may be done prior to the start of Mass. Obviously, the pronounces will need to be adjusted according to the number of the candidates {"elect"} for Baptism.

Presider:

Dear friends, let us pray to almighty God for our brothers and sisters, **N., N., N.**, who are asking for baptism. He has called them and brought them to this moment. May he grant them light and strength to follow Christ with a resolute heart and to profess the faith of the Church. May he give them new life of them Holy Spirit, whom we are about to call down on this water.

O God, who by invisible power accomplish a wondrous effect through sacramental signs and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation, to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters, so that the very substance of water would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood, foreshadowed regeneration, so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;

O God, who caused the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, so that the chosen people, set free from slavery to Pharaoh, would prefigure the people of the baptized; O God, whose Son, baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and, as he hung upon the Cross, gave forth water from his side along with blood, and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:

“Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.

May this water receive by the Holy Spirit the grace of your Only Begotten Son, so that human nature, created in your image and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism from all the squalor of the life of old, may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children through water and the Holy Spirit.

[The celebrant extends his right hand over the water:]

May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Presider: *N., N., N.,* before you can be baptized, you must renounce Satan and his works and promise to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:

Presider: Do you renounce Satan?

Candidates: I do.

Presider: And all his works?

Candidates: I do.

Presider: And all his empty show?

Candidates: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Presider: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

[The candidates {"elect"} are now baptized in conformity with the directives mentioned above.]

Presider: N., I baptize you in the name of the Father,

- *The Priest pours water the first time.*

and of the Son,

- *He pours water the second time.*

and of the Holy Spirit.

- *He pours water the third time.*

[The newly baptized receive a white garment. The use of hangers and garment bags would be prudent to keep the garment from being touched by multiple persons. If this is a hardship for a parish, then it may be omitted.]

Presider: You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ.

Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ so that you may have everlasting life.

[The Godparents receive lighted candles from the Easter candle.]

Presider: You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as a child of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your heart.

**When the Lord comes,
may you go out to meet him
with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.**

All: Amen.

[The newly baptized may now be seated.]

Introduction:

The already baptized who seek to enter into full communion are called to the front. It is important that they practice social distancing. If this not possible, perhaps they could stand up at their place.

THE RECEPTION OF CANDIDATES INTO FULL COMMUNION

Presider: My brothers and sisters,
you have asked, by your own free will,
to be received in the full communion
of the Catholic Church.
You have made your decision after careful thought
and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
I now invite you in the presence of this community
to profess the Catholic faith. In this faith,
you will be one with us for the first time at
the Eucharistic table of the Lord Jesus,
the sign of the Church's unity.

[Candidates recite the Nicene Creed. The assembly is invited to join them. Following the Creed, the candidates {for full reception} alone read the statement below. The Nicene Creed and the statement of faith can be emailed or postal mailed to the candidates. This way they can bring it with them, so it is not handled by multiple persons.]

Candidates: *[Recited in unison:]*

I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches, and proclaims to be revealed by God.

Presider: **My brothers and sisters,
the Lord receives you into the Catholic Church.
His loving kindness has led you here,
so that in unity of the Holy Spirit,
you may have full communion with us
in the faith that you professed
in the presence of his family.**

[The newly baptized are asked to join the candidates for full communion for the Sacrament of Confirmation.]

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Presider: *[Address the candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation:]*
**My dear candidates for confirmation,
by your baptism you have become members
of Christ and of his priestly people.**

**Now you are to share
in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us,
the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles
at Pentecost and given by them and their successors
to the baptized.**

**The promised strength of the Holy Spirit,
which you are to receive,
will make you more like Christ
and help you to be a witness
to his suffering, death, and resurrection.**

**It will strengthen you
to be an active member of the Church
and to build up the Body of Christ
in faith and love.**

[Addressing the Assembly:]

Dearly beloved,

**Let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out
the Holy Spirit upon them to confirm them
with his abundant gifts, and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ,
the Son of God.**

† Pause for silent prayer.

† Priest extends his hands collectively over all to be Confirmed:

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants
to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit,
the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom
and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit
of the fear of the Lord.**

Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

NB: *An Instruction to the Priest-Celebrant for administering the Sacrament of Confirmation: The Presider dips his right thumb into the Sacred Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly baptized and received. Since it is not permitted for him to use gloves or a cotton ball to perform the anointing ritual, he must wash his hands (with lemon juice and warm soapy water - which later is to be poured down the Sacramentarium) AND then he must sanitize his hands after each person is Confirmed.*

Presider: *[Addressing each candidate:]*
N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
Candidate: **Amen.**

Presider: **Peace be with you.**
Candidate: **And with your spirit.**



Final Instructions:

- I:** *The Presider then does a final washing of his hands and returns to his chair. The Mass continues with the Universal Prayer and is followed by The Liturgy of the Eucharist.*
- II:** *The **Roman Missal** provides an instruction for The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (in Part IV: The Liturgy of the Eucharist - #64) that reads: "Before the **Ecce Agnus Dei** {Behold the Lamb of God}, the priest may briefly address the newly baptized (and received) about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of Initiation and the center of the whole of Christian life." It seems appropriate to do the same at the Mass with the celebration of the Reception of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (given these exceptional circumstances).*



PARISH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION (Within Mass) CELEBRATED BY A DELEGATED PRIEST-PRESIDER

† Instructions

The following are instructions, which we hope, will be helpful for the Rite of Confirmation when a delegated priest presides (in the stead of the Bishop who is the ordinary minister of the sacrament) at the Rite of Confirmation (within the Mass):

- 1. Vesture:** The Priest-presider will wear an alb, stole and chasuble (as prescribed by the rubrics of the liturgical season).
- 2. Servers:** In the absence of the bishop, there will be no need for a Crosier or Miter bearer nor any book bearer for the Priest-presider (see instructions for “Guidelines for the Restoration of Public Masses” in the Diocese of Saginaw). However, there will need to be a stand for the Presider’s pages (or the Priest-presider may use the altar).
- 3. Presider’s Book:** The Priest-presider will need to have a ceremonial presider’s book that will be used for the Rite of Confirmation. The text for the Rite of Confirmation will be sent to each delegated priest celebrating the rite.
- 4. Chrism:** **(A)** You will use the Chrism that the host parish has for the rite. If you believe you may not have an adequate amount of Chrism, please notify the Office of Liturgy well in advance of your scheduled celebration. You will also need appropriate and dignified vessels for each priest who will be confirming. At the time of Chrismation, the Priest-presider will bring the Chrism poured into the designated vessel.

(B) You will need a table placed near the Priest-president's location for the administration of the sacrament. This will be used for the placement of the vessel with Chrism and the items detailed below (see: "Washing of Hands").

5. Washing of Hands:

An Instruction to the Priest-Celebrant for administering the Sacrament of Confirmation: The Presider dips his right thumb into the Sacred Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the newly baptized and received. Since it is not permitted for him to use gloves or a cotton ball to perform the anointing ritual, he must wash his hands (with lemon juice and warm soapy water - which later is to be poured down the Sacramentarium) AND then he must sanitize his hands after each person is Confirmed.

† *Ars Celebrandi*

- Please take time to READ thoroughly the enclosed Rite of Confirmation - paying particular attention to the rubrics and flow of the ritual.
- Please take time to PRAY the presidential prayers aloud to familiarize yourself with the text.
- Please call the Office of Liturgy if we can be of any further assistance to you.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

Parish Representative:

The parish(es) of _____
present to you our sons and daughters
who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

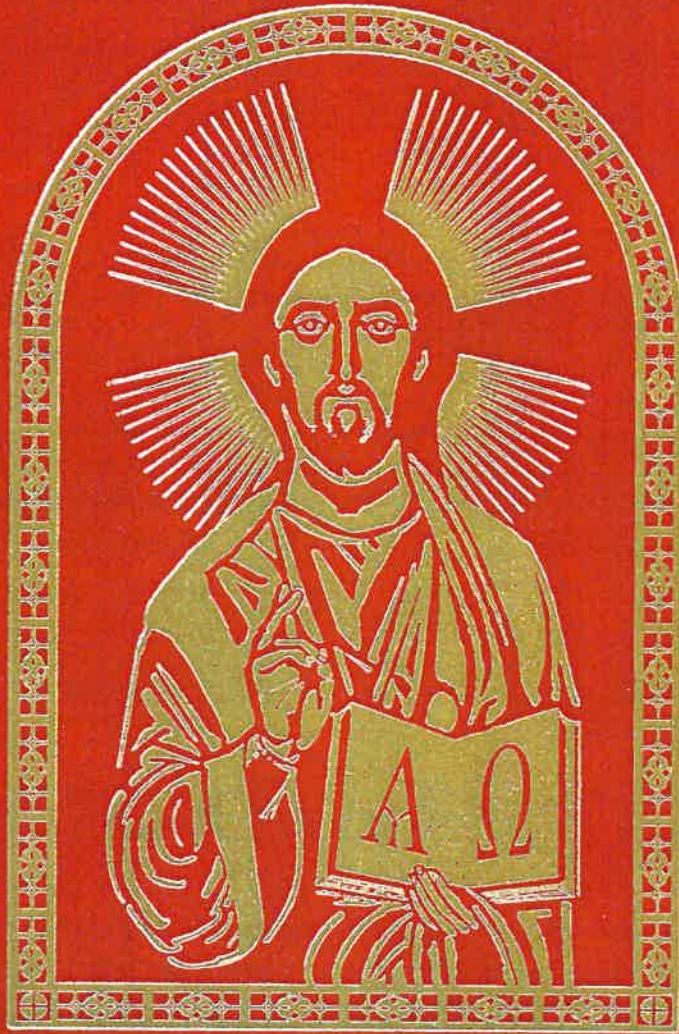
Under the guidance of their parents and catechists
and with the prayerful support and encouragement of this parish
community they have prepared to complete their initiation into the Body
of Christ, the Church, which was begun at their baptism.

I ask that you impose hands upon them
and anoint them with the Sacred Chrism,
sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

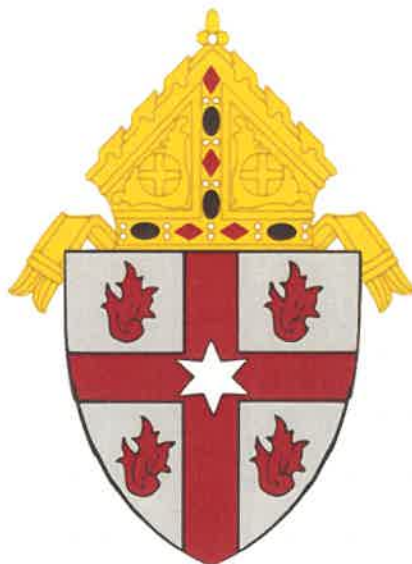
- *At this time, the Director of Faith Formation or Confirmation Coordinator presents each candidate by name.*
- *After each name, the candidate stands and responds: "Present."*
- *Then the priest-presider invites them to be seated for his homily.*

HOMILY

(by the Priest-Presider)



THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION
RITUAL PARA LA CONFIRMACIÓN



The
ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

to be used by
a Priest-President
with
Proper Delegation
in the
Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
June 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

CHAPTER I

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

20. The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in accordance with the rubrics. The readings, however, may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day or from the texts for Confirmation in the *Lectionary for Mass* (nos. 763-767) and listed below (nos. 61-65).

21. After the Gospel the Bishop (as do the Priests who are associated with him) take assigned seats. The candidates for Confirmation are presented by the Pastor or another Priest, or by a Deacon, or even by a catechist, in accordance with the custom of each region, in this way: if possible, each of those to be confirmed is called by name and individually approaches the sanctuary; but if they are children, they are accompanied by one of their sponsors or parents and stand before the celebrant.

If there are very many candidates, they are not called by name; but they are assigned to a suitable place before the Bishop.

THE HOMILY OR ADDRESS

22. The Bishop then gives a brief homily, by which, shedding light on the readings, he leads, as if by hand, those to be confirmed, their sponsors and parents, and the whole gathering of the faithful to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

He may do so in these or similar words:

The Apostles, who had received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of the Lord's promise, had power to complete the work of Baptism by the giving of the Holy Spirit, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. When Saint Paul had laid his hands on certain people who had been baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

The Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, possess the same power and, either in their own right or through Priests lawfully appointed to fulfill this ministry, they confer the Holy Spirit on those who have already been born again in Baptism.

Even if today the coming of the Holy Spirit is no longer widely made manifest by the gift of tongues, we know by faith that the Spirit, through whom the love of God has been poured into our hearts and through whom we are gathered in unity of faith and in diversity of callings, is received by us and is working invisibly to make the Church holy and one.

Dearly beloved, the gift of the Holy Spirit, which you are about to receive, will be a spiritual seal, by which you will be conformed to Christ and will be made more fully members of his Church. For Christ himself, anointed by the Holy Spirit in the baptism he received from John, was sent forth for the work of his ministry, to pour out on the earth the fire of the same Spirit.

Therefore, you who are already baptized will now receive the power of his Spirit and be signed with his Cross on your foreheads. And so, you must always bear witness to his Passion and Resurrection before the world, so that your manner of life, as the Apostle says, may be in every place the pleasing fragrance of Christ. His Mystical Body, which is the Church, the People of God, receives from him diverse graces, which the same Holy Spirit distributes to individuals for the building up of that Body in unity and love.

Be living members of this Church, therefore, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to serve all people like Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

And now, before you receive the Spirit, call to mind the faith which you professed in Baptism or which your parents and godparents professed with the Church.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

23. After the Homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

**Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works and empty promises?**

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles
on the day of Pentecost?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

**This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:

Amen.

For the formula **This is our faith**, it is permitted to substitute, if appropriate, some other formula or even some suitable chant, by which the community is able to express its faith.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

24. Then the Bishop (while the Priests associated with him remain by his side) standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:

**Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit
upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.**

And all pray in silence for a while.

25. Then the Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him). But the Bishop alone says:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

Text with music, p. 93.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

26. The sacred Chrism is brought by the Deacon to the Bishop. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Bishop; or, if appropriate, the Bishop goes to each of those to be confirmed. The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the Bishop; or the one to be confirmed alone says his (her) own name.

27. The Bishop dips the tip of the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

N., BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The newly confirmed replies:

Amen.

The Bishop adds:

Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed:

And with your spirit.

28. If Priests assist the Bishop in conferring the Sacrament, all the vessels of sacred Chrism are brought to the Bishop by the Deacon or by the ministers. As each of the Priests comes to the Bishop, he gives each a vessel of Chrism.

Those to be confirmed go to the Bishop or to the Priests; or, if appropriate, the Bishop and Priests go to those to be confirmed. The anointing is done as described above (no. 27).

29. During the anointing a suitable chant may be sung. After the anointing the Bishop washes his hands (as do the Priests).

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

30. **The Universal Prayer follows in this or a similar form determined by the competent authority.**

Bishop:

**My dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father
and be of one mind in our prayer,
just as faith, hope and charity,
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.**

Deacon or minister:

**For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord
by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the holy Church of God
together with **N.** our Pope, **N.** our Bishop,
and all the Bishops:
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of
faith and love
until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Deacon or minister:

**For the whole world:
that all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bishop:

**O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles
and willed that through them and their successors
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,
listen favorably to our prayer,
and grant that your divine grace,
which was at work when the Gospel was
first proclaimed,
may now spread through the hearts of those
who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

31. After the Universal Prayer the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the Order of Mass, with these changes:
 - a) the Creed is omitted, since the Profession of Faith has already taken place.
 - b) some of the confirmed may join those who bring forward the offerings;
 - c) when the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the *Hanc igitur* (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said, no. 58. When Eucharistic Prayer II or Eucharistic Prayer III is used, the proper forms for these Prayers are said, no. 58.
32. Adults who are confirmed, and, if appropriate, their sponsors, parents, spouses, and catechists may receive Communion under both kinds.

THE BLESSING

33. Instead of the usual blessing, the following blessing or Prayer over the People is used at the end of Mass.

The Deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation: Bow down for the blessing.

The Bishop, with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says:

**May God the Father almighty bless you,
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.**

R. Amen.

**May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth would
abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.**

R. Amen.

**May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts
of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.**

R. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

**And may almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.**

R. Amen.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Instead of the preceding formula of blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used.

The Deacon or, in his absence, the minister of Confirmation himself, says the invitation: Bow down for the blessing.

The Bishop, with hands extended over the people, says:

**Confirm, O God,
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R. Amen.

The Bishop adds immediately:

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

R. Amen.

