

## RITE OF SENDING FOR CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION & CANDIDATES FOR RECOGNITION

*This rite is for use when the election of catechumens (those who have never been baptized), and the call to candidates (those already baptized) to continuing conversion as they prepare for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, are combined. The rite takes place after the homily.*

**HOMILY** *After the readings, the celebrant gives the homily (emphasizing the nature of the rite, and the distinction between the two groups).*

### PART I. PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

**Catechist:** Reverend Father, these catechumens are beginning their final period of preparation and purification leading to their initiation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our 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 assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election celebrated [this Thursday] by Bishop Christensen.

**Celebrant:** Those who are to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ, come forward, together with those who will be your godparents.

**Catechist:** *Will call each person to come forward with their godparent and stand before the celebrant.*

#### **AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]**

**Celebrant:** 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 community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the bishop.

*He addresses the godparents:* I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these catechumens. Have they taken their formation in the Gospel and in the Catholic way of life seriously?

**Godparents:** THEY HAVE.

**Celebrant:** Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

**Godparents:** THEY HAVE.

**Celebrant:** Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the bishop for the rite of election?

**Godparents:** WE DO.

**Celebrant:** My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to the bishop, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments. May God bring to completion the good work he has begun in you.

*PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES* *The catechumens now come forward and sign the Book of the Elect, which will be presented to the Bishop at the Rite of Election.*

**Catechist:** Reverend Father, I now present to you the candidates who are beginning their final preparation for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our 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 assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth for recognition by Bishop Christensen [this Thursday].

**Celebrant:** Those who are to be recognized, come forward, together with your sponsors.

**AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]** Catechist: *calls each candidate to come forward with their sponsor and stand before the celebrant.*

**Celebrant:** 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 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 brothers and sisters in this community and joined with them in prayer. 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.

*He addresses the sponsors:* As God is your witness, do you consider these candidates ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church?

**Sponsors: WE DO.**

**Celebrant:** And now, my dear friends, I 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 Bishop Christensen, who will exhort you to live in deeper conformity to the life of Christ.

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

**Celebrant:** My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. As we journey together to the Easter sacraments, these catechumens and 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.

**Catechist/Deacon:**

That these catechumens and candidates may share with others the joy they have found in the friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's word, let us pray to the Lord:

That our community, during this Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

**Celebrant** *(with hands outstretched over the candidates and catechumens):*

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. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### **DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS & CANDIDATES**

**Celebrant:** My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's Table.