

Rite of Confirmation Within Mass

After the gospel, the Pastor, Deacon, or catechist presents the candidates for Confirmation.

HOMILY OR ADDRESS

The celebrant explains the readings and so lead the candidates, their sponsors and parents, and the whole assembly to a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.

On the day of Pentecost the Apostles received the Holy Spirit as the Lord had promised. They also received the power of giving the Holy Spirit to others and so completing the work of Baptism. This we read in the Acts of the Apostles. When Saint Paul placed his hands on those who had been baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in other languages and in prophetic words.

Bishops are successors of the Apostles and have this power of giving the Holy Spirit to the baptized, either personally or through the priests they appoint. (Today, the Bishop of Hong Kong appoints the Parish Priest to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on his behalf.)

In our day the coming of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is no longer marked by the gift of tongues, but we know his coming by faith. He fills our hearts with the love of God, brings us together in one faith but in different vocations, and works within us to make the Church one and holy.

The gift of the Holy Spirit which you are to receive will be a spiritual sign and seal to make you more like Christ and more perfect members of his Church. At his Baptism by John, Christ himself was anointed by the Spirit and sent out on his public ministry to set the world on fire.

You have already been baptized into Christ and now you will receive the power of his Spirit and the Sign of the Cross on your forehead. You must be witnesses before all the world to his suffering, Death, and Resurrection; your way of life should at all times reflect the goodness of Christ. Christ gives varied gifts to his Church, and the Spirit distributes them among the members of Christ's Body to build up the holy People of God in unity and love.

Be active members of the Church, alive in Jesus Christ. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit give your lives completely in the service of all, as did Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Celebrant: So now, before you receive the Spirit, I ask you to renew the Profession of Faith you made in Baptism or your parents and godparents made in union with the whole Church.

Celebrant: Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his empty show?

Candidates: I do.

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

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

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

Candidates: I do.

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

All: I believe in one God, ... *(All recite or sing the Creed. Meanwhile, the candidates and the assembly may be sprinkled with holy water.)*

If the sprinkling rite has taken the place of the penitential act, the sprinkling would not be repeated here.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The concelebrating Priests stand near the Celebrant, who faces the people and with hands joined sings or says:

Celebrant: My dear friends, in Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters.

Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

All pray in silence for a brief period.

The Celebrant and the concelebrating Priests lay hands upon all the candidates (by extending their hands over them).

Celebrant: All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The Celebrant or Priest dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, by virtue of the laying on of hands:

Priest: **N., be sealed ✠ with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Newly confirmed: Amen.

Priest: **Peace be with you.**

Newly confirmed: And with your spirit.

During the anointing an appropriate song may be sung.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: My dear friends, let us be one in prayer to God our Father as we are one in the faith, hope, and love his Spirit gives.

L: For these sons and daughters of God, confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love, let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: For their parents and godparents who led them in faith, that by word and example they may always encourage them to follow the way of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **(R.)**

L: For the holy Church of God, in union with N. our pope, N. our bishop and all the bishops, that God, who gathers us together by the Holy Spirit, may help us grow in unity of faith and love until his Son returns in glory, let us pray to the Lord. **(R.)**

L: For all men and women, of every race and nation, that they may acknowledge the one God as Father, in the bond of common fellowship seek his Kingdom which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. **(R.)**

Celebrant: God our Father, you sent your Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people. May his work begun at Pentecost continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows.

PREFACE I OR II OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *(Ritual Mass for the Conferral of Confirmation)* OR PREFACE OF THE PENTECOST *(Pentecost Sunday)*

When the Roman Canon is used, the proper form of the Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said: Therefore, Lord, we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, which we offer you also for those reborn in Baptism, whom you have been pleased to confirm by bestowing the Holy Spirit, and in your mercy, keep safe in them your grace. (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

When Eucharistic Prayer II is used, after the words and all the clergy, the following is added: Remember also, Lord, your servants whom you have been pleased to confirm today by bestowing the Holy Spirit, and keep them in your grace.

When Eucharistic Prayer III is used, after the words the entire people you have gained for your own, the following is added: Remember also, Lord, your servants reborn in Baptism whom you have been pleased to confirm by bestowing the Holy Spirit, and in your mercy, keep safe in them your grace.

cum approbatione ecclesiastica