

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION CEREMONIAL PREPARATIONS

### I. SANCTUARY

- # Sufficient chairs for bishop, deacon(s), concelebrants and other ministers should be arranged in the sanctuary in advance of the ceremony.
- # Chairs that are arranged for the servers should be, if at all possible, **on the same side of the sanctuary** as the master of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies should be seated near the servers.

### CREDENCE TABLE

- ☩ # chalice with veil if available, purificator, pall and corporal
- # sufficient plates, cups pre-poured with wine, and purificators if communion is to be given under both kinds
- # dish with one or two lemon wedges and 1 slice of bread quartered
- # pitcher of water, basin and at least one large towels

# *Sacramentary*

### II. OFFERTORY TABLE

- # vessel of bread for congregation and clergy
- # water and wine

### III. MINISTERS

- # Deacons (one or two) to assist the bishop ☩☩ in deacon's absence, one of the concelebrants may assist the bishop ☩☩ if a deacon is assigned, then it is expected that the deacon will rehearse the proclamation of the gospel so that it is clear and audible.

☩ # cross bearer/book bearer

☩ # two acolytes

☩ # mitre bearer

☩ # crozier bearer

(It is expected that at least 5 servers should be assigned for the celebration ☩☩ they need to be old enough to take and understand clear directions from the master of ceremonies ☩☩ each should be assigned his/her role as cross bearer/book bearer, 2 acolytes, mitre bearer, crozier bearer by the pastor or person in charge of the celebration ahead of time so that they may identify themselves and their role to the master of ceremonies.)

# reader(s)

# cantor/leader of song

# ministers of the eucharist (It is expected that **ordinary ministers of Holy Communion**, i.e., deacons and concelebrating priests be assigned as ministers of the eucharist before extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are used.)

# concelebrants

### IV. VESTURE

#### Bishop

- # The bishop will bring his own vestments  
(On occasion the bishop will wear a chasuble and stole provided by the parish)
- # The bishop will bring his own alb, mitre, crozier and *The Roman Pontifical*.

#### Confirmation Candidates

- # If robes are worn, white is the preferred, color, the color worn at baptism.
- # If robes are not worn, candidates should wear dress clothes.
- # **Confirmation stoles or scarves should not be used.**

**Color of Vestments**

- # **RED** if Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated; otherwise, the color of the day (see paragraph VII of this document regarding choice of Mass texts).

**V. PLACE FOR VESTING**

☞ The Bishop prefers to vest in the rectory of the Parish Church. Please provide a separate room, near a restroom and with a glass of ice water.

**VI. PARTICIPATION AIDS**

Booklets are recommended to enable the congregation to participate actively in the liturgy. These should contain **only the music and spoken texts to be prayed by the candidates and congregation**. Brief explanations of the rite may be added. Other texts should not be printed. This applies especially to the bishop's prayers and directions, the renewal of baptismal promises, the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the eucharistic prayer.

Copyright laws demand that permission from the publishers should be obtained for any lyrics or music printed in the booklet. Procedures for copyright permissions are available from the Office for Worship.

**VII. CHOICE OF PRAYERS AND READINGS**

Mass prayers are selected from the Mass for Confirmation, found in the **RITUAL MASSES** under the heading "**Confirmation**," No. 4 in the *Sacramentary* (pages 834 - 837).

Readings are selected from the Mass for Confirmation, found under the heading "**Confirmation**," Nos. 763-767 in the *Lectionary*.

Mass prayers and readings from the confirmation sections of the *Sacramentary* and *Lectionary* may be used throughout the year, **except on**:

1. solemnities (for example: All Saints, Christ the King, Annunciation), indicated by "S" in the Paulist Ordo.
2. Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter and their respective Saturday Vigil Masses.
3. days within the octave of Easter.

On the above mentioned days, Mass prayers and readings are taken from the Mass of the day.

\*\*\*\*\*NB: *Bishop McManus has asked that those planning the liturgy for each Bishop and for each celebration refrain from adding anything extraneous to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Elements such as processions (this does not refer to the actual liturgical presentation of the bread and wine), the lighting of candles and the giving of Confirmation certificates are not appropriate for inclusion in the Eucharistic celebration.*

**VIII. MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

A master of ceremonies will almost always accompany the bishop to the celebration of Confirmation. It is expected that he will take charge of the celebration to insure the flow of the liturgy and to carry out the bishop's expectations.

## CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

### I. ENTRANCE RITE

Candidates and sponsors should go to their places prior to the ceremony. **They should be in their seats at least 5 minutes before the beginning of the ceremony.** When the entrance song begins, the procession of ministers moves down the main aisle of the church in the following order:

- thurifer (if incense is to be used)
- cross bearer
- two acolytes carrying lighted candles
- book bearer
- reader(s) (if they are not members of the confirmation class)
- extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion(if needed)
- deacon if the Book of Gospels is carried
- master of ceremonies
- concelebrants
- bishop
- deacon(s) assisting the bishop
- mitre bearer, crozier bearer

Arriving at the sanctuary, all go to their places. The concelebrants assigned to sit in the sanctuary, bow or genuflect to the tabernacle if the Blessed Sacrament is reserved either in the center of the sanctuary or directly behind the altar, kiss the altar and go to their chairs. If incense is used, the thurifer brings thurible and boat to the bishop who incenses the altar and then goes to the chair. At the chair, the book bearer holds the Sacramentary for the bishop for all prayers and chants of the introductory rites which the master of ceremonies will direct and open for the server.

The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water is **used only on Sundays.** It is not permitted for the celebration of Confirmation that takes place during the week. **This rite is reserved to the president.**

**The GLORIA is used** (sung or recited) **only on Saturday Vigil Masses, Sundays** (excluding those of Advent and Lent) and on **solemnities.** **Otherwise it is omitted.**

### II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

- ☩ All are seated. The bishop puts on the mitre. A reader proclaims the first reading. A cantor leads the singing of the responsorial psalm. After the second reading is proclaimed, all stand (including the concelebrating priests,) and the cantor leads the singing of the gospel acclamation. A deacon (in his absence, a concelebrant) asks for the bishop's blessing and goes to the lectern to proclaim the gospel. During the gospel acclamation, the bishop takes off the mitre and receives the crozier.

### III. LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

- ☩ All are seated. The bishop gives away the crozier and puts on the mitre. The pastor, another parish priest or a catechist presents the candidates to the bishop. As each name is called, the candidate stands. **(Bishop McManus, Bishop Reilly and Bishop Rueger would like all of the names of the candidates read aloud no matter how many.)** After the presentation of candidates, all remain standing until the bishop invites them to be seated. The bishop then gives the homily.

The book bearer brings *The Roman Pontifical* to the bishop who leads the candidates in the

renewal of baptismal promises. **Candidates should be instructed and rehearsed to respond to the questions in a loud and clear voice** The candidates kneel and the bishop **alone** prays the invocation to the Holy Spirit, extending his hands over the candidates. All respond: "**Amen.**" The bishop goes to the head of the main aisle for anointing. Candidates approach the bishop with their sponsors who place the right hand on the shoulder of the candidates.

The confirmation names are to be on a 3 X 5 index card, printed in type large enough for the bishop to read. They are received by an assisting deacon, priest or lay person from the candidate or sponsor and **shown (not read)** to the bishop.

The candidates should be rehearsed to proceed to the bishop and stand very close to him. They are to approach the bishop two by two and one pair directly behind the first, lined up down the middle aisle. **There should be no delay between candidates approaching the bishop to be confirmed .**

The Bishop will bring his own oil stock. He would like to the pastor of the parish to stand to his right as he confirms and hold the oil stock.

The sponsor who stands behind the candidate. should be rehearsed to place his or her right hand on the candidates right shoulder.

The bishop anoints each candidate saying: "**N., Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**" The candidate answers: "**Amen.**"

The bishop says: "**Peace be with you.**" The candidate answers: "**And also with you.**"

After the last person is anointed, the bishop returns to the chair, gives away the crozier and holy chrism. The servers bring a plate with lemon and bread, a pitcher of water, the basin and two white towels to wash the bishop's hands. After washing, the bishop removes the mitre, stands and introduces the general intercessions which are read by a deacon or, in his absence, by the reader or a member of the confirmation class. The bishop concludes the general intercessions with a prayer.

**If several members of the confirmation class are to pray the general intercessions, they should move to the place in the sanctuary where the intercessions are to be proclaimed, while the bishop is washing his hands. They should remain in the sanctuary until the Bishop concludes the closing prayer of the intercessions.**

#### IV. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

##### ☩ Preparation of the Gifts

All are seated. The master of ceremonies places the corporal, chalice, pall, purificator and *Sacramentary* on the altar.

At Saturday Vigil Masses, Sunday Masses and Holy Day Masses the usual collection is taken up.

Some newly confirmed present vessels of bread and wine to the bishop near the front of the altar. **No gifts, other than those of bread and wine are to be presented in the offertory procession.** The bishop returns to the chair. The deacon (in his absence, the master of ceremonies) prepares the chalice and arranges the gifts at the altar with the help of the servers.

The bishop removes the mitre and **alone** comes to the altar. Concelebrants remain in their places. The bishop prays the blessing prayers over the bread and wine. If incense is used, the

thurifer brings incense and boat to the bishop who incenses the gifts, altar and cross. The deacon (in his absence, the master of ceremonies) incenses the bishop and returns the thurible to the server. Servers bring a pitcher of water, basin and towel to wash the bishop's hands.

### ☩ **Eucharistic Prayer**

Immediately after the conclusion of the prayer over the gifts, the master of ceremonies removes the bishop's zucchetto..

Concelebrants seated in the sanctuary move near the altar They should place themselves at a sufficient distance from the altar so that the bishop, deacon, (if present) and master of ceremonies may move about and perform their ministry.

The bishop prays the eucharistic prayer of his choice. Concelebrants pray the eucharistic prayer **inaudibly**. One or two of the concelebrants may be asked to share in the Eucharistic Prayer. Concelebrants will read from a prayer card provided by the Master of ceremonies.

The deacon assists by holding the chalice during the singing of the doxology. In the deacon's absence, the bishop performs these tasks himself.

### **Communion Rite**

Only the liturgical version of the Lord's Prayer (the text in the *Sacramentary*) is to be used, whether recited or chanted.

After the sign of peace is given, servers bring to the altar additional plates. The deacon (in his absence, the master of ceremonies) fills the plates from the large vessel of hosts that have been consecrated at the Mass. The master of ceremonies distributes the hosts to the concelebrants in the sanctuary who receive it in their hands.

All the People of God find as the source and summit of their lives, their participation in the Eucharistic Banquet. Their full, active and conscious participation finds its fullest expression when they, together with their priest partake in the Eucharistic Sacrifice actually being offered. As we seek to take this important right of the baptized seriously, at the Sacrament of Confirmation Holy Communion will be distributed from the gifts consecrated at that Mass. **Therefore neither the , Priest, nor Deacon should bring previously consecrated hosts from the tabernacle.**

After each concelebrant receives from the cup, he takes a plate of consecrated hosts and goes to his assigned communion station. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, if required, follow the same procedure.

**If communion is given under both kinds, the USCCB Guidelines entitled: Norms for the Distribution of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds, are to be followed carefully.** This procedure is outlined in that document on page 18. It is also outlined in these guidelines on page 6.

After communion, remaining hosts are brought to the tabernacle where the deacon (in his absence, a concelebrant) arranges for it to be placed in the tabernacle. **Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion do not place consecrated hosts in the tabernacle. This is reserved to the priest or deacon.**

After distributing communion, the bishop returns to the chair. The master of ceremonies will direct the servers to bring a pitcher of water, a basin and towel to wash his hands. When the bishop stands and says: "**Let us pray,**" the book bearer brings him the *Sacramentary* for the

post- communion prayer.

- ☩ **If there are any announcements, they are to be made only after the post-communion prayer has been prayed, not before. This is the time for the pastors words. No additional speakers should approach the ambo.**

## V. CONCLUDING RITE

The bishop puts on the mitre, takes the crozier and prays the blessing. The deacon dismisses the congregation. The recessional song begins and the procession forms to leave the church in the same order as the entrance procession, with one exception, candidates follow immediately behind the bishop.

However, if photos are to be taken, the candidates move to a gathering area outside of the church. The candidates may then move to pose for photographs with the bishop.

- ☩ **N.B. Certificates should not be given out during the liturgy. This should be done at another time. Gifts to teachers, candidates, retreat teams etc. should not be given out during the liturgy. This too should be done at another time.**

## COMMUNION FROM THE CUP

*The General Instruction on the Order of Mass encourages communion from the cup at Confirmation Mass. Use of this option presumes that both congregation and candidates have been properly instructed and that sufficient ministers have been rehearsed in advance.*

*When communion from the cup is given, the following procedure is observed:*

- 1. Make careful judgment about how much wine is to be consecrated.*
- 2. At communion stations, there should be two ministers of the cup for every minister of the consecrated host.*
- 3. At the preparation of the gifts, the wine may be poured into chalices that are placed upon the altar or chalices that have already been filled with wine may be placed upon the corporal.*
- 4. During the singing of the "Lamb of God," additional plates for the hosts are brought to the altar from the credence table. The deacon (in his absence, the master of ceremonies) apportions the consecrated hosts into the additional plates.. **N.B. Holy Communion is to be distributed from the gifts consecrated at that Mass only. Previously consecrated hosts may not be brought from the tabernacle!***
- 5. After the hosts are apportioned, a deacon, concelebrant or master of ceremonies distributes the hosts to the concelebrants in the sanctuary.*
- 6. After each sanctuary concelebrant has received from the cup, he takes a plate and steps back to allow ministers of the cup to drink and go to their stations. Ministers of the consecrated hosts go to their stations after ministers of the cup.*
- 7. Ministers present the cup to each communicant and say: "**The Blood of Christ.**" The communicant answers: "**Amen.**" The minister gives the cup to the communicant. He or she should not attempt to guide the cup. After the communicant has received the precious blood, the minister takes the cup, wipes the rim inside and out with the purificator, turns the cup slightly and presents it to the next person.*
- 8. After communion, the ministers consume the remaining Blood of Christ This should be done at the credence table, not at the altar. The cups are left at this table where they are covered with a white cloth until after Mass, when they are purified and washed.*