



Diocese of Allentown The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the homily, the priest in charge of the catechumens' initiation, or a deacon, a catechist, or a representative of the community, presents the catechumens, using the following words:

Deacon/Catechist:

Reverend Father, these catechumens, whom I now present to you, 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 by Bishop Cullen.

Celebrant:

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

Celebrant (or a deacon) calls each by name. The Catechumens, accompanied by a godparent, comes forward and stands before the Celebrant.

Catechumens: _____

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS

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.

Celebrant addresses the godparents

Celebrant: I turn to you, godparents, for your testimony about these candidates. Have these catechumens 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.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS

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 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.

Deacon/Lector: That these catechumens may be freed from selfishness and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Lector: That their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Deacon/Lector: That these catechumens may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS

Hands outstretched over the Catechumens.

Celebrant:

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 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.

R. Amen.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS

Celebrant: My dear friends, you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. In his name we send you forth from this community to celebrate with the Bishop the Lord's choice of you to be numbered among his elect. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace.

Catechumens: Amen.

OR

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.

OR

Celebrant: Catechumens, go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

Catechumens: Amen.

OR

If for serious reasons the catechumens cannot leave and must remain with the rest of the liturgical assembly, they are to be instructed that though they are present at the Eucharist, they cannot take part in it as the Catholic faithful do. They may be reminded of this by the celebrant in these words:

Celebrant: Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with his Spirit to re-create the face of the Earth.