

RITE OF SENDING OF THE CATECHUMENS FOR ELECTION

106 At the conclusion of the period of the catechumenate, a rite of sending the catechumens to their election by the bishop may be celebrated in parishes wherever this seems beneficial or desirable. When election will take place in the parish, this rite is not used.

107 As the focal point of the Church's concern for the catechumens, admission to election belongs to the bishop who is usually its presiding celebrant. It is within the parish community, however, that the preliminary judgment is made concerning the catechumens' state of formation and progress.

108 The rite is celebrated in the parish church at a suitable time prior to the rite of election.

109 The rite takes place after the homily in a celebration of the word of God or at Mass.

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

111 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 or similar words.

**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 blessing and prayers as they go forth to the rite of election
celebrated this afternoon by Bishop Libasci.**

Celebrant replies:

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

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a godparent (or godparents), comes forward and stand before the celebrant.

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]

112 Then the celebrant addresses the assembly in these or similar words:

**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 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 Bishop Libasci, 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.**

Assisting minister:

**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**

**That their godparents may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the
Lord: R/. Lord Hear Our Prayer**

**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**

**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**

**That our community, during this (or: the 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

Celebrant prays with hands outstretched over the 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 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

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:

R/ Amen