



PROCEDURES FOR CONFIRMATION WITH BISHOP WENSKI

I. DIGNITY OF CONFIRMATION

“Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian initiation through the sacrament of Confirmation. In this sacrament they receive the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent upon the apostles on Pentecost” (RC 1).

“This giving of the Holy Spirit conforms believers more fully to Christ and strengthens them so that they may bear witness to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and love. They are so marked with the character or seal of the Lord that the Sacrament of Confirmation cannot be repeated” (RC 2).

II. LITURGICAL PREPARATION

A. Preparing the Confirmation Liturgy

In his task of over seeing the liturgy of the local church, the bishop is assisted by Diocesan Office of Liturgy and the Master of Ceremonies. The Master of Ceremonies has the final say in the preparation and carrying out of any liturgical event involving the Bishop.

The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. Ordinarily the sacrament is administered by the bishop so that there will be a more evident relationship to the first pouring forth of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. (RC 7)

Simplicity is an important element in planning liturgies. Time is also a pressing factor. All effort should be made to see that nothing unnecessarily adds to the length of a ceremony. The more simple and straight forward it is, the more pleasing it is to the bishop.

The liturgy of Confirmation with the Preface of the Spirit II is to be used except on Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, solemnities, Ash Wednesday and the weekdays of Holy Week, in which case the liturgy of the day is celebrated (*CB* 458, 459; *CB* Appendix III).

Liturgical planning should take into account the liturgical day and season. On the Sundays of Easter, a rite of sprinkling may be used (*CB* 133,134).

Color of Vestments. Red vestments are to be worn except on Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, solemnities, Ash Wednesday and the weekdays of Holy Week, in which case the proper color of the day is used (*CB* 458,459; *GIRM* 346; *CB* Appendix III).

Processions The confirmandi are to be seated in the church by the time Mass is scheduled to begin. If the confirmandi are to process, they are to do so prior to the liturgical procession. They may be led in procession by the paschal candle, to recall the relationship between the Sacrament of Baptism and that of Confirmation. The liturgical procession, which includes only the Liturgical ministers, should begin at the time at which Mass is scheduled.

Readings. The readings of the day *must* be used. A second reading should not be added if it is not part of the readings of the day.

Presentation and Preparation of Gifts.

Collection: If Confirmation takes place at a regularly scheduled Sunday liturgy, a collection is in order (*GIRM* 73; *RS* 70)

Music during the Preparation of Gifts It is advisable that instrumental music or an appropriate hymn is sung during the collection, The music should continue during throughout the entire Preparation of the Gifts.

Presentation of Gifts The gifts of bread and wine, and the collection are then brought to the chair where they are received by the Bishop.

Environment. Environment of the church should be in keeping with good taste, liturgical principles and the liturgical season. (*GIRM* 305-308).

Photography. Photographs are encouraged at the reception and not during the liturgy. The bishop will be available for pictures after the celebration either outside the church or at the Parish Hall if there is a parish reception. The pastor may also have an assigned photographer during the ceremony to take pictures of each candidate. If a group picture is planned, practiced and organized, the Bishop will be available for a group picture.

Name cards. The Bishop prefers name cards rather than name tags. The Confirmation name should be printed on each card. The candidate for Confirmation hands this card to the priests on either side of the Bishop during the anointing procession.

Communion. Communion is to be distributed under both species when the bishop is present (*GIRM* 281-286, esp. 283; *RS* 100; *CB* 470; *Rite* 32).

Music. Music is an integral element in liturgy. It is important to remember, however that it is simply one element. Excess music can detract from the liturgy and unnecessarily add to its length. Silence, it should be remembered, is also an important element of the liturgy.

It is advisable that instrumental music or an appropriate hymn is sung during the collection. The music should continue during throughout the entire Preparation of the Gifts.

There is to be no liturgical movement/dancing during the liturgy. There are to be no exceptions.

Worship Aid/Program. Music that is reproduced in a worship aid *must* have the permission of the publisher and the proper copyright notice given. Reproduced music that does not have the permission of the publisher is illegal. Worship aids containing such material *will not* be used during the Confirmation liturgy (*Liturgical Music and the Copyright Law: A Guide for Musicians and Clergy*, Diocese of Orlando 1990).

Because of the likelihood that many Non Catholics will be in attendance the Worship Aid should publish guidelines on who can receive Communion.

B. Preparing the Candidate for the Confirmation Liturgy

Each candidate should be well prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (*Rite* 3,11,12).

The Anointing. It is expected that each candidate will have the opportunity to practice and to memorize the proper responses to the prayers of the ritual.

The candidates approach the bishop by two's as is done for the Communion procession. The sponsor, standing behind the candidate, places his/her right hand on the shoulder of the candidate for the anointing. (*CB* 466; *Rite* 26) There should be two candidates in front of the bishop at all times. Have them stand close to the Bishop so he can reach them. The candidate for Confirmation hands the name card to one of the priests next to the Bishop.

The bishop dips his right thumb in the chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed as he says, "N., be sealed with Gift of the Holy Spirit." The newly confirmed responds, "Amen." After the anointing, the bishop says "Peace be with you" and the candidate responds "And also with you." (*CB 467; Rite 27*).

Prayer of the Faithful. If the Prayer of the Faithful is recited, the deacon or a newly confirmed reads the petitions (*GIRM 70, 138; CB 144*). The Bishop will introduce the prayer of the Faithful. The Bishop prefers that the intercessions found in the Rite of Confirmation itself be used. See Appendix. The bishop will then conclude the intercessions with a prayer. All will sit for the Preparation of Gifts.

Preparation of the Gifts. Vessels of bread and wine are to be brought forward by an appropriate number of persons, usually the newly confirmed, in the procession at the Preparation of the Gifts. (*GIRM 72*) Those presenting the gifts walk down the center aisle into the sanctuary and directly to the bishop at the presidential chair. Extra symbols should not be added. (*CB 145,470*).

Vesture for the Confirmandi. Appropriate clothing for church attendance should be worn. Stoles are not appropriate vesture for Confirmation candidates. The stole is the garment of ordained ministry (deacon or priest).

C. Music for the Confirmation Liturgy

The liturgy of Confirmation is a solemn occasion, and those parts of the liturgy that may be sung should be sung. The music chosen for this celebration should reflect the communal nature of worship and the liturgical day and season. Music that is individualistic is inappropriate for Christian worship (*GIRM 40; MCW 23-24*).

1. A gathering song should be sung (*GIRM 47-48; CB 128; MCW 61*). It should be just long enough to last until the bishop reaches the chair.
2. The Bishop prefers that Form A of the Act of Penitence be used. On the Sundays of Easter a Rite of Sprinkling may be used. When Form A is used, the Kyrie is always to be sung and never to be omitted (*MCW 44,65; GIRM 52; CB 133-134*).
3. The Gloria is sung on Sundays outside of Advent and Lent and on solemnities and feasts (not memorials). It is not used on weekdays (*MCW 66; CB 135; GIRM 53*).
4. The Responsorial Psalm is sung (*GIRM 61; MCW 63*).
5. The Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation is omitted if it is not sung (*GIRM 62; MCW 55*).

2. The order of the procession is as follows. The thurifer (if incense is used)
6. Music is suggested during the anointing. If there is music at this time, it should be subdued so the bishop may hear the responses of the candidates (*CB* 467; *Rite* 29).
7. There will be a renewal of Baptismal promises after the homily. No creed is necessary (*Rite* 23)
8. The petitions and response of the Prayer of the Faithful may be sung (*MCW* 74).
9. A hymn, anthem or instrumental music may accompany the Preparation of the Gifts (*CB* 145; *MCW* 71; *GIRM* 74).
10. The Eucharistic acclamations (Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen) must be sung if there is any music at the liturgy (*GIRM* 79b,e,h; *CB* 154-155,158; *MCW* 53-54,56-58).
11. The Lord's Prayer may be sung (*MCW* 59).
12. The Lamb of God is sung (*GIRM* 83; *MCW* 68; *CB* 162).
13. A Communion processional song which expresses the communal nature of the Eucharistic meal should be sung. A meditation song may be sung after the Communion processional song (*CB* 163,166; *MCW* 62,72; *GIRM* 88).
The Communion and meditation songs should be long enough to cover the time needed to distribute Communion, wash the bishop's hands and return the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle. The music should not extend beyond that.
14. A closing song may be sung (*MCW* 73).

D. Procession

1. As stated previously, the Confirmandi are to be seated in the church by the time the Liturgical Procession of Mass begins. If the confirmandi are to process, they are to do so prior to the liturgical procession. They may be led in procession by the paschal candle, to recall the relationship between the Sacrament of Baptism and that of Confirmation. The liturgical procession, which includes only the Liturgical ministers, should begin at the time at which Mass is scheduled.

cross bearer, two candle bearers(if used), other servers, the Book of the Gospels, the concelebrating priests, the Master of Ceremonies, the Bishop and two deacon chaplains (if present)

3. As each member of the liturgical procession reaches the foot of the sanctuary, he/she will bow and go directly to his/her place in the sanctuary. Do not have everyone line up and bow together.
4. The entrance rite and readings proceed as described previously.

E. Liturgy of the Word

1. At the singing of the Gospel Acclamation, all but the bishop stand. If a deacon is present, the deacon reads the Gospel. If not, it is preferable that the pastor read the Gospel. The person who is to read the Gospel goes to the bishop to receive his blessing. He then proceeds to the ambo to proclaim the Gospel. After the Gospel, the person who proclaims the Gospel, brings the Book of the Gospels to the bishop to kiss. Then all sit.
2. The pastor presents the candidates. This is to be a simple statement that the candidates have been prepared and are ready to receive the sacrament. Do not introduce the candidates by name.
3. The bishop will give the homily. Please have a microphone available that enables the bishop to walk to the front pews to talk with the confirmandi.
4. After the homily, all will stand for the renewal of Baptismal promises.
5. The Bishop will receive his miter and crosier for the anointing. The bishop and all priests present will raise their hands and pray for the invocation of the Holy Spirit. (RC 24, 25) (Canon 872)
6. For the anointing the bishop will stand in the center aisle. The servers will hold the book and the chrism. Two priests will be on each side of the bishop as the candidates come forward. The priests will receive the name cards.
7. When the anointing is done the bishop will wash his hands. While he is washing his hands, the reader may move into place for the Prayers of the Faithful. Once the bishop has finished washing his hands, any music should stop.

F. Liturgy of the Eucharist

1. The gifts are presented to the bishop at the chair. The deacon (or priest) and servers will prepare the altar.
2. Concelebrating priests are to remain in their places until the bishop finishes the Prayer over the Gifts. They may then come forward to the altar for the Preface.

3. Communion is to be distributed in as timely a manner as possible. The bishop will give Communion to the deacons and the servers. He will then proceed to the center aisle, usually with the pastor. All the other concelebrants, deacons and, if needed, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, should immediately distribute Communion to the rest of the congregation.

The Bishop does not want to give Communion to all the newly confirmed by himself, while everyone else waits. The pastor should assist the bishop. All other Communion stations should begin immediately.

4. After the bishop finishes distributing Communion, he will return to the presidential chair to wash his hands with water.
5. All will stand as the bishop says the Prayer after Communion.
6. If announcements must be made, they should be very brief after the Prayer after Communion.
 7. The bishop will give the final blessing. If a deacon is present, he says the dismissal. If a deacon is not present the bishop will dismiss.
8. The bishop will kiss the altar and move to the front of the altar to stand facing it. The concelebrating priests may stand on either side of him. All will bow together, turn around and process out. If the newly confirmed are to process out, they are to do so following the Bishop.
 9. The bishop will greet people at the door of the church, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon.

F. Arrival and Preparation for the Bishop

1. The bishop will arrive roughly a half hour before the ceremony. A convenient parking space should be reserved for him. The Master of Ceremonies should be informed of the location of this parking space.
2. The bishop will vest in the rectory, if its location is convenient to the church. A room should also be made available to him so that he can freshen up after the ceremony.

G. Sacristy Preparations

1. The bishop brings his own vestments to all ceremonies (*CB 457*). The bishop will also bring his own chrism. Please check the ordo for the proper color for the concelebrants and other visiting bishops. The pastor should always wear a chasuble. The other concelebrating priests may wear just an alb and stole if chasubles are not available for them.

2. The following are to be placed on the credence table: the chalice and cups, purificators, additional ciboria/patens, a cruet of water, two basins and a pitcher of water, one lemon cut in half (placed in one of the basins), two linen or terry cloth hand towels, and a *Sacramentary* (CB 457). The pitcher and basin need to be ample enough to wash the oil off but not so large and heavy that the servers cannot carry them. The servers will also need to wash the Bishop's hands after Communion.
3. There is to be nothing on the altar except the altar cloth and perhaps two candles if they do not stand on the floor. There is no need for a book stand (GIRM 304-307).
4. The key is to be placed in the tabernacle, but all bread to be used for the Confirmation liturgy should be consecrated at that liturgy. GIRM 85
5. The following should be brought forward at the Preparation of the Gifts: enough hosts for the liturgy (including hosts for the bishop and concelebrating priests) and a pitcher containing the wine to be consecrated. The bread should be held in one container rather than in numerous ciboria. *All* of the bread and wine to be consecrated at the liturgy should be brought forward in the procession. Hosts for the concelebrants and wine for the bishop's chalice are not to be separated from the rest of the bread and wine (GIRM 85, CB 145; RS 70).
6. A microphone should be provided for the bishop that is cordless or with enough cord that he could be near those to be confirmed.

IV. LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

A. Pastor/Associate Pastor/ Concelebrating Priests

1. If there is no deacon present, the pastor reads the Gospel. After the reading of the pastor brings the Gospel Book back to the Bishop to kiss. (GIRM 171,208).
2. After the Gospel, the candidates are asked to stand, and the pastor presents them to the bishop. The bishop preaches and instructs the candidates (CB 461,#2; Rite 21).
3. Unless priests are assisting the bishop in anointing they do not raise their hands during the invocation of the Holy Spirit (imposition of hands).
4. While the bishop is anointing the pastor stands at the bishop's right. The concelebrating priest or a deacon stands at the bishop's left to receive the name cards.
5. The pastor or associate pastor is responsible for assigning communion stations to

those distributing communion (*GIRM*,162,171,208).

B. Deacon

1. The deacon takes part in the procession and carries the Book of the Gospels preceding any concelebrating priests (*GIRM* 172; *CB* 127).
2. If there is a Rite of Sprinkling, the deacon holds the container of water and leads the bishop through the congregation (*CB* 133).
3. The deacon proclaims the Gospel (*GIRM* 171c; *CB* 140-141). After the reading of the deacon brings the Gospel Book back to the Bishop to kiss.
4. The deacon or one of the candidates reads the petitions of the Prayer of the Faithful (*GIRM* 71, 177; *CB* 144).
6. The deacon receives the gifts with the bishop (*GIRM* 178; *CB* 145).
7. The deacon prepares the chalice for the bishop (*GIRM* 178; *CB* 147).
8. The deacon invites the assembly to offer each other a sign of peace (*GIRM* 181).
9. The deacon introduces the final blessing if a solemn blessing is used (*Sac.* p. 566; *GIRM* 185; *CB* 471).
10. After the final blessing, the deacon dismisses the assembly using one of the formularies found in the Sacramentary (*GIRM* 185).

C. Readers

It is recommended that those who regularly exercise the ministry of reader in the parish be those who read at the Confirmation Liturgy. They must be well prepared and practiced. The Bishop prefers that the reader not be one of the confirmandi. If there is no deacon present, the reader will carry the *Book of the Gospels* in the entrance procession and place it on the altar (*GIRM* 194-196).

D. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Priests who concelebrate the liturgy of Confirmation will distribute the Body of Christ. Deacons are assigned to distribute the Blood of Christ. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to be assigned to distribute the cups. (*GIRM* 284). There should be sufficient ministers so that each communion station has one person distributing the Body of Christ and two ministers distributing the Precious Blood. The pastor or associate is responsible for the assignments of ministers to their stations (*CB* 153,470)

E. Altar Servers

Five servers are needed for the ceremony. These should be the best servers in the parish and should not be younger than seventh grade. All servers should be at the church no later than thirty minutes before the start of the ceremony. Seats for the altar servers should be on the same side as the credence table (*CB* 128).

F. Ministers of Hospitality

Ushers/greeters are needed for the Confirmation liturgy.

IV. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SITUATIONS

A. Teenage Catechumens

For teenagers in a catechumenal process, the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion) are always celebrated at the same liturgy (*RCIA* 215,308,323). In cases of pastoral necessity this may be combined with the parish *Rite of Confirmation*. The model for this celebration is taken from the Easter Vigil with adaptations offered through the Office of Liturgy. Notification of this circumstance is to be made to the master of ceremonies/Director of Liturgy and the ritual text will be appropriately adapted.

Those to be initiated must participated in a complete catechumenal process, celebrating the rites appropriate to each stage (*RCIA* 253,257).

B. Teenage Candidates for Reception

The *Rite of Confirmation* may be joined with the *Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into Full Communion with the Catholic Church*. Notification of this circumstance is to be made to the master of ceremonies/ Director of Liturgy and the ritual text will be appropriately adapted.

REFERENCE ABBREVIATIONS

GIRM General Instruction of the Roman Missal
CB Ceremonial of Bishops
RC Rite of Confirmation (1975 Edition)
Sac Sacramentary 1985
MCW Music in Catholic Worship 1973
RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
RS Redemptionis Sacramentum