

# Sending of the Catechumens for Election

*Diocese of Orlando*

## Liturgy of the Word

After the readings, the celebrant gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the catechumens along the path of the paschal mystery.

## Homily

## Presentation of the Catechumens

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, 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 this afternoon (or: next Sunday [or: specify the day]) by Bishop Noonan.

**The 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 stands before the celebrant.

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## Affirmation by Godparents/Assembly

**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 Bishop Noonan.

**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 Bishop Noonan for the rite of election?

**Godparents:**

*We do.*

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The celebrant concludes the affirmation by the following:

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.

In the Diocese of Orlando, the signing of the Book of the Elect is to take place at the parish. The catechumens may now come forward to sign it or they should sign it after the celebration or at another time prior to the rite of election. This rite is not intended for sacramental candidates for full communion of the Catholic Church since as baptized Christians they are not sent to the rite of election. Please note that if there are sacramental candidates for full communion who are present, it is appropriate to have them dismissed at the end of this ritual for reflection on the scriptures and formation.

## Intercessions for the Catechumens

Then the community prays for the catechumens by use of the following or a similar formulary. The celebrant may adapt the introduction and the intentions to fit various circumstances.

Intentions for the Church, world, and parish community may be added to the following intentions 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:

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

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**Assisting minister:**

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Assisting minister:**

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

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Assisting minister:**

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

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Assisting minister:**

That our community, during the (coming) Lenten season, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

## Prayer over the Catechumens

**After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens, says the following prayer.**

**F**ather 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.  
Amen.

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## Dismissal of Catechumens/Elect

Option

*(Use only if you have sacramental candidates present who will be received into full communion of the Catholic Church or catechumens who will not be initiated at the coming Easter Vigil.)*

**Celebrant**

I now invite all other catechumens and sacramental candidates to come forward.

The celebrant dismisses the catechumens (and those others to be dismissed) with these or similar words:

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.

**Catechumens:**

Amen.

Option

*(Use only if this rite is being celebrated outside of the context of the Mass.)*

The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words.

Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.

**All:**

Thanks be to God

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When the eucharist is to follow, the Universal Prayer continues with the usual general intercessions for the needs of the Church and the whole world; then, if required, the profession of faith is said. **But for pastoral reasons the usual general intercessions and the profession of faith may be omitted. The liturgy of the eucharist then begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.**

## Liturgy Of The Eucharist