

**CONFIRMATION LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE—COMPLETE AND RETURN**

**Please complete and return pages 1-3 at least three weeks prior to the celebration to:**

OFFICE OF WORSHIP, 1201 HUGHITT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 969, SUPERIOR, WI 54880

PHONE: 715-394-0233 FAX: 715-395-3149 E-MAIL: [pbirch@catholicdos.org](mailto:pbirch@catholicdos.org)

**Please print legibly or type. Bishop thanks you in advance for your assistance.**

**Contact the Office of Worship if you have any questions about the form.**

Name of Parish where Confirmation will be celebrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address and City where Confirmation will be celebrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Day of the week, month and date of liturgy: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of liturgy: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Candidates: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates will be from the following parishes: \_\_\_\_\_ Number from each:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Pastor's Signature* *Date*

Assisting Deacon of the Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Assisting Deacon of the Altar: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader (First Reading): \_\_\_\_\_

Reader (Second Reading) \_\_\_\_\_

Cantor: \_\_\_\_\_

Thurifer (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Incense boat Bearer (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Cross/Book Bearer: (combined or separate): \_\_\_\_\_

Candle Bearer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Candle Bearer #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Chrism Bearer (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Bearer (Bread): \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Bearer (Wine): \_\_\_\_\_

Vestment Color: *During the Easter Season* \_\_\_\_\_ White  
*Pentecost Sunday* \_\_\_\_\_ Red  
*Confirmations at other times of the year* \_\_\_\_\_ White *or* \_\_\_\_\_ Red

**Regarding the selection of scriptural texts:**

- When Confirmation is celebrated during a weekend liturgy, the scriptural texts from the *Lectionary* for the MASS OF THE DAY are used.
- Bishop also prefers that the scriptural texts for the MASS OF THE DAY be used on weekdays during the Easter season.

If the Mass is celebrated on a weekday outside of the Easter season:

- the scriptural texts for that day may be chosen
- -OR- those from the CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION may be chosen (*Lectionary* numbers 764-768).
- -OR- a combination of the two (MASS OF THE DAY -and- CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION) may be used.

**Regarding the Mass in general:**

- Musical settings of the *Gloria*, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Eucharistic Acclamations and Lamb of God should be used.
- If incense is used, it should be used in these places: 1.) during the incensation of the altar and cross after the opening procession, 2.) during any procession with the *Book of Gospels* and prior to the proclamation of the Gospel, 3.) during the preparation of the gifts and during the Deacon’s incensation of the Bishop, the other ministers in the sanctuary, and the assembly.

**Regarding the choice of a Confirmation Name:**

After Vatican II the theological understanding of Confirmation being the fulfillment of the Sacraments of Initiation and its connection to the Sacrament of Baptism was heightened. In many dioceses, including our own, this led to the recommendation of using one’s baptismal name as the Confirmation name and the discontinuation of the ancient tradition of choosing a saint’s name. Lately, the value of a candidate returning to the ancient tradition of choosing a saint’s name as the Confirmation name has resurfaced. This is particularly true if the candidates prayerfully research the lives of several saints and choose one whose holy life they want to emulate in their own life. The choosing of a saint’s name (or not) should be up to the candidate. However, choosing a saint’s name without much thought or prayer makes little sense and should be avoided if possible.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**Entrance Hymn:**

*-The Book of Gospels may be carried in the procession, but not the Lectionary.* \_\_\_\_\_

**Incensation of the Altar:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Sprinkling Rite:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Penitential Act:** First \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Third \_\_\_\_\_

*-If the Sprinkling Rite is used, the Penitential Act is omitted.*

**Gloria:** sung \_\_\_\_\_ recited \_\_\_\_\_

**Collect Prayer**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*-Readings should be proclaimed from the Lectionary.  
-The Gospel may be proclaimed from the Book of Gospels.*

**First Reading:**

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Book, chapter and verses)*      Lectionary number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Bracketed number in Lectionary)*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*-The psalm should be sung.*

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_      Lectionary number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reading:**

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_      Lectionary number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gospel Acclamation:**

sung \_\_\_\_\_ omitted \_\_\_\_\_

**Incense used:**

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Gospel:**

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_      Lectionary number: \_\_\_\_\_

*-It is appropriate that either the assisting Deacon or Pastor of the parish proclaim the Gospel.*

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

*-For details concerning the rite, see following page.*

**Profession of Faith (Creed): [OMITTED]**

*-Due to the creedal nature of the candidates' Renewal of Baptismal Promises, this element is omitted.*

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Offertory Song/Music:**

*-Only bread, wine (the weekend collection if applicable) and possibly additional gifts for the poor should be brought to the altar at this time.*

**Incensation of the Altar and Gifts:**      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Incensation of the Ministers and Assembly:**      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*-The Deacon performs this.*

**Prayer Over the Offerings**

**Preface**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*-Bishop will most often use the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Memorial Acclamation**

**Great Amen**

*-These should be sung.*

**COMMUNION RITE**

**Our Father:**      sung \_\_\_\_\_ recited \_\_\_\_\_

**Lamb of God**

*-This should be sung.*

**Communion Procession Song/Music:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer after Communion**

**CONCLUDING RITES**

**Blessing and Dismissal**

**Closing Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

**[Gospel]**

**Presentation of the Candidates:**

*The candidates are presented immediately after the proclamation of the Gospel and before the homily. The Pastor may do this, or a Deacon, or a catechist. The candidates are called by their first, middle and surnames. They then stand, usually remaining at their seats. If a candidate has chosen a confirmation name, that name is included in this order: first name, middle name, confirmation name and surname. The method used for calling the names should attempt to be as uniform as possible within that group of candidates. Candidates should remain standing until all the names have been called, and then be seated again as a group.*

**Homily:** (Bishop will then give the homily.)

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises:**

*The candidates stand. They should be rehearsed to answer “I do” as a group with loud and reverent conviction to these questions:*

<u>BISHOP:</u>	Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?	<u>CANDIDATES:</u>	<b>(I do.)</b>
	Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?		<b>(I do.)</b>
	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?		<b>(I do.)</b>
	Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?		<b>(I do.)</b>
	Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?		<b>(I do.)</b>
	This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.	<u>CANDIDATES AND ENTIRE ASSEMBLY:</u>	<b>(Amen.)</b>

**Laying on of Hands:**

*The candidates generally stay standing at their seats for the laying on of hands and the prayer All-powerful God... Bishop and any concelebrating Priests extend their hands over the candidates as a group while Bishop alone says the prayer.*

**Anointing with Chrism:**

*(Bishop will bring his own anointing vessel with him.) An assisting Deacon should pour the Chrism into the anointing vessel and bring it to Bishop. As each candidate and sponsor approach Bishop for the anointing, the sponsor places his or her right hand on the shoulder of the candidate and says the candidate’s name loud enough for Bishop to hear. The sponsor should use the candidate’s full Baptismal (first) name rather than an abbreviation or nickname. Unlike during the Presentation of the Candidates above, if the candidate has chosen a confirmation name, it is this name that is used (alone) instead of their Baptismal name.*

<u>BISHOP:</u>	<i>(As he anoints the candidate’s forehead.)</i> <b>N.</b> , be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
<u>NEWLY CONFIRMED:</u>	<b>Amen.</b>
<u>BISHOP:</u>	Peace be with you.
<u>NEWLY CONFIRMED:</u>	<b>And with your spirit.</b>

*Candidates and sponsors should be rehearsed ahead of time.*

*During the anointing, especially if there are a large number of candidates, an appropriate song may be sung or instrumental music may be played. (Ideally, this music should be soft to complement the ritual action taking place rather than distract from it.) After the anointing the Bishop and any Priests assisting with it wash their hands.*

**Prayer of the Faithful (General Intercessions):**

*Bishop often will introduce and conclude these prayers extemporaneously, but the parish should have a set of intercessions composed for the occasion. It is appropriate for an assisting Deacon to read the intercessions.*

**Profession of Faith (Creed):**

*Due to the credal nature of the candidates’ Renewal of Baptismal Promises, this element is omitted.*

## CHECKLIST FOR CONFIRMATION MASS—KEEP THIS PAGE FOR YOUR REFERENCE

\_\_\_\_\_ **Vessels for distribution of the Chrism...** The Oil of Chrism is provided by the parish and should be placed in an appropriate vessel to pour into the anointing vessel. (Bishop brings his own anointing vessel.) The parish's pouring vessel may be carried in the entrance procession and placed in a prominent position, (but not on the altar). After the liturgy any remaining Chrism should be poured back into the parish storage vessel. Before the pouring vessel is washed, any excess Chrism in it should be diluted with warm, soapy water and reverently disposed of via the sacarium, or wiped off with absorbent paper which is later burned.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Special hand washing after the anointing...** During the liturgy, just after the anointing, Bishop and any priests delegated to assist with it will need to wash the excess Chrism from their hands. A lemon wedge, a basin of warm, slightly soapy water and sufficient towels should be provided for this. After Mass the lemon wedge should be squeezed out into the soapy water which should then be poured down the sacarium.

\_\_\_\_\_ **The liturgical environment...** should be festive but simple. Avoid placing decorations where they would impede ritual movement or distract from the primary symbols of the Eucharist and sacramental anointing. To emphasize the importance of the worshipping assembly, consider expanding the scope of the decorations beyond the sanctuary, to include more of the entire worship space. The use of natural plants and flowers is preferable to artificial ones. (Neither should be placed on the altar.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Participation of the candidates...** The special role for the confirmation candidates is to be recipients of the sacrament. Though well-intended, having candidates function as liturgical ministers at their Confirmation Mass shifts this emphasis and is best avoided. However, youth confirmed the year prior who regularly serve as parish liturgical ministers could be asked to function as liturgical ministers for this Mass.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Liturgical ministers...** include: Bishop (or his delegate) as Priest celebrant, other Priests as concelebrants, one or two assisting Deacons, one or two readers, a cantor and accompaniment musicians, altar servers and, unless there will be sufficient ordinary ministers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Selection of pastoral music...** To foster authentic participation rather than a feeling of performance, the liturgical music chosen should ideally reflect some youthful preferences, but at the same time should also be singable and familiar to the average Sunday parish assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Worship booklets/reprint permission...** Although specially printed worship booklets containing the assembly's sung and spoken responses may be helpful, they are not necessary. If one is printed, prior reprint permission must be obtained for all copyrighted musical notation and texts it contains. Acknowledgement of this permission must be included in the format required by the copyright holder. Most copyright holders require a fee for this permission.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ritual movement...** The candidates (and their sponsors) may walk in the opening procession with the other ministers. A designated section of seats for them may facilitate their movement for the anointing later on.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Clerical vesture...** is either red or white (see bottom of page 1.) Bishop will provide his own vesture. Concelebrants (the Pastor and other Priests in attendance) generally wear a stole and chasuble or, due to a lack of vestments, simply a stole over their alb. If they are available, the assisting Deacon(s) should be encouraged (but not required) to wear dalmatics.

\_\_\_\_\_ **At the time of anointing...** While anointing the forehead, Bishop says the candidate's first name. ["N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."] When the candidate and sponsor approach Bishop for the anointing, the sponsor places his or her right hand on the candidate's shoulder and says the name the candidate will be confirmed with to Bishop in a clear voice. If a confirmation name has been selected, it is this name (alone) and not the baptismal name that is told to Bishop. If a confirmation name has not been chosen it is the baptismal name that is used. (No middle names or surnames are used at this point.) The candidate then responds "Amen." and, "And with your Spirit." to Bishop at the appropriate times (see page 4). Both the sponsors and the candidates should be rehearsed ahead of time.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Stoles...** In Roman Catholicism, the stole is the vestment proper to ordained clergy, and not a symbol of the priesthood of all believers. It is because of this that no stoles of any kind should be worn by the candidates.

