

Prayers and Responses for Presentation of Catechumens and Candidates

To be reviewed with Catechumens

CELEBRATION OF ELECTION

PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS

Bishop: Those who are to be chosen in Christ please stand together with your godparent as your name is called.

Bishop: God's Holy Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the elect for the coming celebration of Easter. And so I speak first of all to you their Godparents. Have they faithfully listened to God's Word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents: *They have.*

Bishop: Have they responded to the word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents: *They have.*

Bishop: Have they shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents: *They have.*

INVITATION AND ENROLLMENT OF NAMES

Bishop: And now my dear catechumens, I address you:

Your own godparents and teachers have spoken in your favor. The church in the name of Christ accepts their judgment and calls you to the Easter Sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your own response to that call clearly and in the presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?

Catechumens: *We do.*

Bishop: Then offer your names for enrollment.

(Each catechumen comes forward with their godparent and signs his/her name in the Book of the Elect.)

ACT OF ELECTION

Bishop: My dear brothers and sisters, I now declare you to be members of the Elect, to be initiated into the Sacred Mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

Catechumens: *Thanks be to God!*

Bishop: God is always faithful to those He calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to Him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your Election opens up before you.

(The Bishop now addresses the Godparents.)

Bishop: Godparents, you have spoken in favor of these Catechumens: accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the Sacrament of God's life.

I now invite you to place your right hand on the right shoulder of the Catechumen you are sponsoring as a sign of your commitment. Let us pause for a moment of silent prayer.

To be reviewed with Candidates

CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Bishop: Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church please stand, together with your sponsor, when your name is called.

(Announcement of names)

Bishop: The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.

(Bishop addresses the sponsors)

Bishop: Have they faithfully listened to the Apostles' instructions proclaimed by the Church?
Sponsors: *They have.*

Bishop: Have they come to a deeper appreciation of the Baptism, in which they are joined to Christ and his Church?
Sponsors: *They have.*

Bishop: Have they reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is their heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?

Sponsors: *They have.*

Bishop: Have they advanced in a life of love and service to others?

Sponsors: *They have.*

(Bishop addresses the Candidates)

Bishop: My dear brothers and sisters, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the Holy Spirit and to have a place at Christ's Eucharistic table. Join with us this Lent in a spirit of repentance. Hear the Lord's call to conversion and be faithful to your baptismal Covenant.

Candidates: *Thanks be to God!*

(Bishop addresses the sponsors)

Bishop: Sponsors, continue to support these candidates with your guidance and concern. May they see in you a love for the Church and a sincere desire for doing good. Lead them this Lent to the joys of Easter Mysteries.

I now invite the sponsors to place your right hands on the right shoulders of the candidates you are sponsoring as a sign of your commitment.

At this time I would also ask for the elect and their godparents to stand, godparents place your right hand on the shoulder of the elect, as we all pause for silent prayer.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer.

(Candidates and sponsors remain standing.)