

Presentation of the Confirmation Candidates

(Immediately after the Gospel, before the Homily)

***Pastor
or his
Delegate***

Bishop Peter, the Parish community of (*patronal name*) presents to you the candidates for Confirmation. Along with their parents and teachers, they have been involved in a careful preparation programme and are now ready and worthy to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Would the parents of the candidates please stand and say together:

Parents

Bishop Peter, having already presented our children to be born again in Christ through Baptism, we wish to further their initiation into the Catholic faith by presenting them now to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. As Christian parents we wish to give them every help and encouragement we can, by our words and by our example, to practise the faith within the Church community.

(Parents please be seated)

***Pastor
or his
Delegate***

Would those who are to sponsor these candidates please stand and say together:

Sponsor

We are willing by our good example and prayers also to be a spiritual friend, to guide, support and care for the candidate whom we will sponsor for confirmation.

(Sponsors please be seated)

Each candidate is now called by name. Each stands and responds saying "Present" and remains standing.

***Pastor
or his
Delegate***

Bishop Peter, the Parish community of (*patronal name*) requests that you confirm these candidates.

Bishop Peter

I am happy to accept the candidates you have presented and to gift them the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

Candidates now sit.

Presentation of the Candidates

The presentation of the Candidates has parallels to our other rites of initiation. At the rite of acceptance into the order of catechumens, the inquirers are literally called into the assembly, called by name to declare their desire to be part of the church. At the rite of election, the catechumens are called forward publicly so their names may be included in the book of the elect. Their election by God for the sacraments of the church is reflected in this public presentation. At the baptism of children, the presider formally asks the parents what the children are to be called, then calls the children by name to claim them as followers of Jesus Christ.

Similarly, at confirmation the candidates are called forth by name, one at a time. *They do not present themselves; they are called forth.* They come to confirmation not as a testimony of *their* action but as a reminder of *God's* action. This ritual moment thus reflects the truth of all Christian initiation: the initiative does not rest with the individuals, but with God.

They stand as the focus of attention for the bishop and the entire assembly (*Rite of Confirmation, 21*). That the candidates have been led to this point is a testimony to the faith and commitment of parents, family and parish, animated by God's initiative.

The candidates stand in the midst of the assembly as living witness to God's action, not to their own accomplishments, as icons of the Spirit of Christ moving and acting with the church. It is a brief glimpse of the truth, to be cherished by all who take part in and witness it, that when God's word is proclaimed the church is built up in faith and communion.

From
"Confirmation, A Parish Celebration"
Timothy Fitzgerald
pp31-34