

Diocese of Hamilton

Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation



The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, OMI, DD
Bishop of Hamilton
September 2019



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

September 2019

Dear Pastors, Catechists and Teachers:

I am pleased to present revised ***Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation*** with young people in the Diocese of Hamilton.

These guidelines, originally published in May, 2010, have been revised in accord with the revised edition of the Roman Missal (2011) and the revised edition of the Order of Confirmation (2016) as well as my Liturgical Instruction, *Gathered Into One* (2018). They are effective immediately.

They are offered to assist you in the preparation of the liturgical celebration of this important Sacrament in the lives of so many young people in our Diocese, and indeed in the life of the Church. The foundational catechetical preparation of those presenting themselves for Confirmation continues to be based upon the *Growing in Christ, Growing in Faith* religious education program offered in our Catholic Schools and by resources provided by our Diocesan Catechesis Office. The immediate preparation for the Sacrament continues to be the responsibility of the Parish Priest.

I am always grateful for the good work of the Priests, catechists and teachers in the Diocese who prepare young people each year to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Parishes. I pray that you will be richly blessed for your ministry.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton.

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GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

INTRODUCTION

DIGNITY OF THE SACRAMENT

A specific importance is attached to Confirmation for sacramental initiation by which the faithful “as members of the living Christ are incorporated into him and made like him through Baptism and through Confirmation ad the Eucharist.” (*Ad Gentes*, no. 35)

In Baptism, the newly baptized receive forgiveness of sins, adoption as children of God, and the character of Christ, by which they are made members of the Church and for the first time sharers in the priesthood of their Saviour (cf. 1 Peter 2.5,9). Through the Sacrament of Confirmation those who have been born anew in Baptism receive the ineffable Gift, the Holy Spirit himself, by whom “they are endowed ... with special strength.” (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 11) Moreover, having been signed with the character of this Sacrament, they are “more perfectly bound to the Church” and “they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ.” (*Ad Gentes*, no. 11) Finally, Confirmation is so closely linked with the Holy Eucharist that the faithful, after being signed by Holy Baptism and Confirmation, are incorporated fully into the Body of Christ through participation in the Eucharist.

– *Excerpt from the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation,
Pope Paul VI, August 15, 1971*

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THESE GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are meant to assist pastors and those catechists and teachers associated with them in the preparation of the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Hamilton. They are not intended to provide direction for the requisite catechetical instruction for Confirmation. Guidelines for catechetical instruction and resources available for this purpose are provided by the Diocesan Office of Catechesis. These present guidelines, however, do reiterate the canonical requirements for the celebration of the sacrament which are provided in the Code of Canon Law (1983), canons 879-896, and address some pastoral concerns related to the liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with young people in the Diocese of Hamilton.

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

1. MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION

The ordinary minister of Confirmation for children baptized as infants is the Bishop. The Bishop is also the ordinary minister of Confirmation for children who were received into full Communion prior to their reception of First Eucharist and who seek to complete their Christian initiation. Priests are not permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with these children without having received the faculty to do so from the Bishop.

2. CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Children who were baptized as infants and wish to complete their Christian initiation are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the Diocese of Hamilton, young people are usually invited to request the sacrament in grade seven, unless the Bishop has given permission for the sacrament to be celebrated at another time.

3. CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The responsibility for the immediate preparation for Confirmation rests with the Pastor and the parents. They are to ensure that children are adequately prepared for the reception of Confirmation. It is the duty of the Parish Priest to ensure that the children are properly instructed, properly disposed and able to renew their baptismal promises.

A Certificate of Baptism is to be obtained by the Parish Priest in every case prior to beginning preparation for Confirmation.

Foundational Catechesis is most often provided by the Religious Education Program, *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*, or by on-going participation in the Diocesan Catechetical Correspondence Program.

Immediate Preparation is provided by a collaborative effort of the teacher(s) in the Catholic School, the Pastor and Parish catechists. Guidelines and resources for this immediate catechesis are provided by the Diocesan Catechesis Office.

It is customary for Parish Priests (and teachers or catechists) to provide parents with information regarding the catechesis of the children and sacramental preparation. This often takes place in the context of Parish meetings with parents.

Liturgical Preparation includes the child's regular participation at Sunday Mass and the rehearsal of common responses and songs, the ritual for celebration Confirmation, and any ministerial roles which the children will assume during the Confirmation liturgy.

Opportunity for Reconciliation: It is customary to provide an opportunity for the candidates to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation. This may take place in the context of a retreat day.

Enrolment of Candidates: An optional Enrolment of candidates may take place in the Parish. See [Appendix B](#) (page 16).

Acceptance of Candidates

While it is the responsibility of the Pastor and parents to ensure that adequate preparation is provided for young people presenting themselves for Confirmation, no child is to be denied the sacrament provided that they desire to be confirmed and have made some effort to prepare for the Sacrament. Since the Bishop is the minister of the sacrament, upon the recommendation of the Pastor, the Bishop alone determines who is to be confirmed.

4. TIME OF CONFIRMATION

The celebration of Confirmation normally takes place in the Parish church on a Sunday or on a weekday evening which is determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Pastor. In Hamilton Diocese Confirmation is always celebrated during Mass.

5. PLACE OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is to be celebrated in the Parish church where the child resides or where his/her family is registered. Because of the disparity between church and school boundaries, it is permitted for children to be confirmed with their classmates in the Parish associated with the school, even if this is not the child's proper Parish. No permission from the proper Pastor is required in this case.

6. SPONSORS FOR CONFIRMATION

The role of the sponsor in Confirmation is to encourage and support the candidate in his/her efforts to be a true and faithful witness to Christ. The sponsor should be chosen because he/she is an exemplary, active member of the Catholic Church.

A person, male or female, who has been fully initiated into the Catholic Church

(Latin or Eastern Rite), and lives a life of faith may be a sponsor for Confirmation. The sponsor must be sixteen years of age or older, and may not be the parent of the candidate. It is desirable that the sponsor be the same person who undertook this role at Baptism.

When the sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation liturgy, another suitable person may be a proxy for the sponsor during the celebration.

7. CONFIRMATION NAME

In the Rite of Confirmation there is no mention of choosing a special name for Confirmation. It is recommended that the child's baptismal name be used, emphasizing the important link between Baptism and Confirmation along the path of Christian initiation.

The long standing custom of choosing a new name for Confirmation may be retained. If so, the candidates should choose the name of a recognized saint whose virtues inspire them to walk in holiness of life. The study of saints as part of the catechetical preparation for the sacrament is helpful in this regard.

THE LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

SEATING OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates and their sponsors are to be seated prior to the scheduled beginning of the celebration. They are not part of the liturgical entrance procession.

Candidates may be seated as a group in front of the group of sponsors. In this case it will be important to develop a seating plan so that the order of seating for the candidates corresponds to the order for the sponsors. Alternatively, the candidates may be seated with their sponsors.

It is preferable for the candidates and sponsors to be seated at the front of the church on both sides of the centre aisle, so that they can approach the Bishop in pairs for the anointing (see [Appendix C](#), page 18).

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The liturgy begins with the usual entrance procession for Mass. The procession is led by the Cross bearer and acolytes. A minister carrying the Book of the Gospels follows. During the procession the assembly is invited to sing a hymn. The song should be familiar to all, including the candidates, possess a strong rhythmic quality, and engage all who have assembled for the celebration. Generally, the opening song should be part of the parish repertoire.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

When all are in place and the song is concluded, the Pastor may extend a welcome to the Bishop, if this has not already taken place. The introductory rites are celebrated in the usual way. The Rite of Confirmation calls for the Glory to God. However, in the Diocese of Hamilton, the Gloria is not sung on weekdays; it is sung only on Sundays and Solemnities outside of Advent and Lent.

The introductory rites always conclude with the Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Ritual Mass, unless Confirmation is celebrated on a Solemnity, on a Sunday during Advent, Christmas, Lent of Easter, or during the Octave of Easter.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word is celebrated in the usual way. When Confirmation is celebrated on Sunday or on a Solemnity, the assigned readings of the day are to be used. On other occasions, selected readings from the *Lectionary: Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Votive Masses, Masses for the Dead* (nos. 763-767), may be used. The Scriptures may be proclaimed by adult members of the community or by candidates who have been prepared to proclaim God's word.

The proclamation of a reading is never divided among several readers. On weekdays, it is permitted to have one or two readings prior to the Gospel. On weekdays during the Easter Season, the first reading must be taken from the Acts of the Apostles.

Following the first reading there is a period of silence before the Responsorial Psalm. The Responsorial Psalm is to be sung as at Sunday Mass. The text of the Psalm corresponds to the first reading and is taken from the *Lectionary: Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Votive Masses, Masses for the Dead* (no. 766). A second reading is then proclaimed if the celebration takes place on a Sunday or Solemnity, or if it is desired on a weekday. Following the proclamation, there is a period of silence before the Gospel Acclamation.

The Gospel Acclamation is sung as at Sunday Mass. The music for the

acclamation should be both festive and well-known. Then the Gospel is proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

After the Gospel proclamation, all are seated and the candidates are presented as a group to the Bishop. This is normally done by the Pastor; it may be done by another priest or catechist. A sample text for this purpose is found on page 11.

HOMILY

The Bishop gives the homily following the presentation of the candidates.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

After the homily, the Bishop invites the candidates to stand for the renewal of their baptismal promises. The candidates are encouraged to respond in an audible voice: "*I do*" to each of the questions.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Following the renewal of baptismal promises, the candidates remain standing and the Bishop invites all to pray. He then extends his hands over the candidates, praying that the gifts of the Holy Spirit be poured out upon them. Other priests present join him for the laying on of hands.

ANointing WITH SACRED CHRISM

Once he has received his mitre and crozier, the Bishop stands at the head of the centre aisle to anoint the candidates with Sacred Chrism. The candidates (with their sponsors) approach the Bishop in pairs from the side aisles. (This enables all in the assembly to witness the anointing.) Standing in front of the Bishop each candidate says in a loud voice: "*Bishop, my name is N.*"

After the Bishop has anointed each person with the words: "*N, be sealed with the gift of*

the Holy Spirit", the candidate responds: "*Amen*". Then the Bishop gives the sign of peace, saying: "*Peace be with you.*" The candidate responds: "*And with your spirit.*" The newly-confirmed (and their sponsors) return to their seats by way of the centre aisle.

It is important that all in the assembly are able to see the ritual anointing. For this reason, candidates stand only when it is time to approach the Bishop, and they approach the Bishop from the side aisles. They are seated immediately upon their return to their seats. It is also important for the Bishop to hear the candidates and for all in the assembly to hear the words of the Bishop as he anoints the candidates. For this reason no music is to be played or sung during the anointing.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The Universal Prayer (or General Intercessions) may be announced by a minister or by one or several of the newly-confirmed according to Parish custom. They do not use hand gestures to invite the people's response; "*We pray to the Lord*" is the invitation. Some models for intercessions are found in Appendix A (page 14). Care is to be taken that the intercessions include prayers for the Church, civic leaders, those in need, the local community, and the newly-confirmed. The response to the petitions is addressed to the Lord, not to the Holy Spirit. Those announcing the petitions remain in place until the Bishop has said the concluding prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

After the intercessions, all are seated and the altar is prepared for the Eucharist. A collection is taken. When the collection begins the newly-confirmed who will present the Bread and wine for the Eucharist go to get the gifts and immediately bring

them forward to the Bishop. No other items are presented at this time. Instrumental music or a song may accompany this rite.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the highpoint of the entire liturgy. It is important that all are familiar with the sung acclamations by which they participate in this great prayer. The music for the acclamations is usually taken from the parish repertoire.

COMMUNION RITE

The Communion Rite is celebrated in the usual way. All join in singing the Communion Processional Hymn.

When Confirmation is celebrated at a regular Sunday Mass, and it is the custom to offer Communion under both forms to the assembly, this custom is to be observed.

However, at other celebrations of Confirmation with children, Communion under both forms ought not to be offered.

When all have received Communion, a period of silent prayer is observed. A second Communion song is not sung at this time. Then all stand for the Prayer after Communion.

CONCLUDING RITE

The concluding rite takes place as usual. Parish announcements, including an invitation to a reception, as well as an expression of thanks to the Bishop and those who prepared for the celebration may be made at this time. A solemn blessing may be given and all are dismissed. The newly-confirmed may process out of the church following the Bishop.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CELEBRATION

DRESS

The candidates ought to be dressed in a way that is appropriate for a festive liturgical celebration and according to the customs of the Parish. Expensive r elaborate clothing is neither necessary nor desirable. Where it is the custom, gowns may be worn.

Candidates are not to wear anything that resembles a stole, since this is a sign, not of the priesthood of the faithful, in which they share by virtue of their Baptism, but of the ordained ministry in the Church.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and videos are not permitted during the liturgy so that all may participate fully in the celebration. Individual pictures of the newly-confirmed and their sponsors with the Bishop may be taken following the liturgical celebration. If a group picture is desired, this may be taken prior to the liturgy.

PARTICIPATION BOOKLETS

In most communities the Parish hymnal provides what is needed to ensure that all present are able to participate in the liturgy. Participation booklets are generally not necessary. However, if a special booklet is needed, care must be taken to obtain copyright permission for all prayer texts and songs that are reproduced. The cover of such a booklet should affirm that the Liturgy of Confirmation is a Parish celebration, not a school event.

MEMENTOES AND CERTIFICATES

Some Parishes have the custom of distributing religious articles or certificates to the newly-confirmed. The distribution of such items does not take place during the Confirmation Mass. This is to be done following the liturgy at another time.

CONFIRMATION REGISTER ENTRIES

The celebration of Confirmation is to be recorded in the Parish Confirmation Register as soon as possible following the celebration. A notice of Confirmation must be sent immediately to the church where the newly-confirmed was baptized. Notation is to be made in the Parish Baptismal Register for those baptized in the same church where the Confirmation was celebrated.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Baptized children, who are disabled or have special needs, have the same rights as all baptized persons and ought to be invited to celebrate Confirmation, provided they are suitably catechized according to their ability and needs. Wherever possible the catechesis for these children will be a joint effort between the Parish, home and school. Modifications to the catechetical program and sacramental preparation may be necessary because of the special needs and abilities of the children. The Diocesan Catechesis Office can provide helpful resources to assist in this regard.

LITURGICAL PREPARATION

Attention should be paid to the festive and solemn character of the liturgical celebration. Since Confirmation is celebrated during Mass, all those preparations which are made for the Sunday Eucharist ought to be made for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Such preparations include the following:

1. MINISTRIES

In order that the celebration be seen as the action of the whole People of God, a variety of ministries will be exercised. The ministers may be chosen from among the candidates or members of the Parish community. The following is a checklist of required ministers:

- ☐ Readers (one or two)
- ☐ Cantor for the Psalm
- ☐ Reader(s) for the Petitions
- ☐ Gift bearers
- ☐ Leader of Song/choir
- ☐ Altar Servers:
 - Cross bearer/Book bearer
 - Acolytes (two)
 - Mitre bearer
 - Crozier bearer
- ☐ Ushers
- ☐ Extraordinary Ministers of Communion as needed

2. MUSIC SELECTION

Music in the liturgy is meant to enhance the prayer of the community and support the ritual action. Therefore music appropriate to the season, the occasion of Confirmation, and the different moments in the liturgy ought to be chosen. Music which is familiar to the Parish community should be considered first of all. The following parts of the Mass ought to be sung at every celebration of Confirmation.

- ☐ Entrance Song
- ☐ Responsorial Psalm
- ☐ Gospel Acclamation

- ☐ Eucharistic Acclamations
 - Holy, Holy, Holy
 - Mystery of Faith
 - Doxology/Amen
- ☐ Communion Processional Song

Other parts may be sung according to the Parish customs.

Hymns and acclamations taken from our National Hymnal and other approved hymnals are generally appropriate. It is always important that hymns are addressed to God. It is important to consult the Parish Priest or Parish musicians regarding the selection of music for Confirmation.

3. SELECTION OF SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Usually three Scripture readings are proclaimed during the Confirmation Mass. Unless Confirmation takes place on a Sunday or Solemnity, the readings are taken from the *Lectionary: Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Votive Masses, Masses for the Dead* (nos. 763-767). Readings may also be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the day.

4. A GOOD CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The liturgical celebration of God's word is to be unhurried. Everything should be done to promote a faith-filled listening to the scriptures so that the Lord's voice can be heard in the assembly. Attention to the following will assure a good celebration of God's word.

- The first reader waits until everyone is seated and settled before beginning the proclamation.
- Only one person proclaims each reading.
- The readers use the Lectionary for proclamation. They never use papers or booklets for the proclamation. Readers will need to be familiar with the location of the readings in the Lectionary.
- All readings are proclaimed from the Ambo.
- A pause for silent prayer is observed following each reading.
- The Responsorial Psalm is sung by one Person, leading the assembly in the response. The singing of the Psalm, or even of the response alone, is a great help toward understanding and meditating on the psalm's spiritual meaning.
- The Gospel Acclamation is sung. If not sung, it is omitted. If incense is used, the Gospel Acclamation begins after the incense has been placed in the thurible. Acolytes may accompany the minister to the Ambo and remain there during the proclamation.
- The Gospel is proclaimed by a deacon or priest.

5. ENVIRONMENT

To help support the festive nature of the celebration, suitable decorations may be used in the church. The use of flowers or banners will be determined by the style of the building and its size. Decorations ought to facilitate people's prayer; they should never draw attention away from the prayers and ritual gestures of the liturgy, or obscure

the pre-eminence of the altar and ambo in the sanctuary. Finally, decorations ought to be selected in accord with the liturgical season.

6. SEATING

As mentioned earlier in this document, the candidates and their sponsors are to be seated prior to the scheduled beginning of the celebration. They may be seated as a group in front of the group of sponsors or the candidates may be seated with their sponsors. It is preferable for the candidates and sponsors to be seated at the front of the church on both sides of the centre aisle (see Appendix C, page 18).

Candidates who are exercising ministries such as readers, leader of song, announcing the petitions, presenting gifts or offering words of thanks, ought to be seated so that they can easily exercise their ministries. Catechists and teachers often serve as ushers during the celebration and so should be seated so they can assist the candidates and sponsors when approaching the Bishop for the anointing.

7. MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

In addition to the Bishop, and Priests and Deacons present, it may be necessary to provide for extraordinary ministers of Communion. The Master of Ceremonies is not to be a minister of Communion.

8. REHEARSALS

On several occasions during the period of preparation, the candidates ought to rehearse the songs, acclamations and responses for the celebration of Confirmation. This is a key aspect of the immediate preparation.

Special attention ought to be given to the words which the candidate says to the Bishop and the responses which the candidate makes to the Bishop during the

anointing. They are to be spoken in a loud and clear voice.

When the candidate approaches the Bishop he/she says in an audible voice:

Bishop, my name is N.

During the anointing the candidate makes the following responses:

Bishop: N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate: ***Amen.***

Bishop: Peace be with you.

Candidate: ***And with your spirit.***

Candidates also ought to study and reflect on the scripture readings which will be used in the liturgy.

Candidates who will exercise ministries need to be trained for these roles.

A final general rehearsal takes place prior to the celebration. This is led by the Pastor or his delegate. The purpose of this rehearsal is to familiarize the candidates with their movements during the celebration, to practice the dialogue which takes place with the Bishop during the anointing, and to familiarize them once again with the prayers and responses, songs and acclamations which are part of the Mass.

The rehearsal of servers may be done by a member of the Parish staff or immediately prior to the celebration by the assistant who will accompany the Bishop.

THE LITURGY OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation begins immediately following the Gospel proclamation.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Pastor or another Priest, Deacon or Catechist presents the candidates to the Bishop using these or similar words:

Bishop N.,
I present to you the young people of N., Parish,
who have completed a period of preparation for Confirmation.
They have deepened their knowledge of Jesus Christ,
by studying the truths of our faith.
They have been strengthened by God's grace in the Sacraments,
and have been supported by the prayers
and example of our Parish Community.
I now ask you to celebrate the completion
of the initiation into the life of Christ
and to seal them with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. THE HOMILY

The Bishop then addresses the candidates.

3. RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The relationship between Baptism and Confirmation is emphasized by the renewal of the promises made at Baptism. The Bishop invites the candidates to stand for the renewal of their baptismal promises.

Bishop: Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: 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?

Candidates: **I do.**

Bishop: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and 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?

Candidates: ***I do.***

Bishop: Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: ***I do.***

Bishop: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: ***Amen.***

4. LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bishop invites all to pray for those to be confirmed. With hands extended over the candidates, the Bishop alone says:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

5. THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The Bishop stands at the entrance to the sanctuary to anoint the candidates. The Pastor, or another priest or deacon holds the vessel with Chrism, standing at the right side of the Bishop.

The candidates stand in pairs – in front of the Bishop, for the anointing. Their sponsors stand behind them with their hand on the shoulder of the candidate.

The first candidate gives his/her name to the Bishop, saying: ***Bishop, my name is***
_____.

The Bishop anoints the candidate on the forehead with the sign of the Cross, saying:

N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly-confirmed responds: *Amen.*

The Bishop says: *Peace be with you.*

The newly-confirmed responds: *And with your spirit.*

The first candidate and sponsor returns to their seats and the second candidate is anointed.

The Master of Ceremonies and servers will assist the Bishop to wash his hands following the anointing. A bowl of soapy water and a towel are all that is need for this.

6. THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) follow immediately (the Creed is omitted). In the Prayer of the Faithful, the People of God exercise their priesthood by praying for all. The intercessions given in the Ritual Book (page 8) may be used or others may be composed for the celebration (see models in Appendix A, page 14).

One or more of the newly-confirmed may announce the petitions. Usually about five petitions are sufficient. Those who announce the petitions are to remain at the microphone until the Bishop has said the concluding prayer.

Following the Universal Prayer, the liturgy continues with the Presentation of the gifts and the celebration of the Eucharist.

APPENDIX A

UNIVERSAL PRAYER – MODEL INTERCESSIONS

In addition to the intercessions provided in the Order of Confirmation (Canadian edition) on page 8, the following models are provided to assist those preparing the liturgy of Confirmation.

Form 1

Bishop: Let us be one in prayer to God our Father
as we are one in the faith, hope and love his Spirit gives.

Reader: Our response to the petitions is: Lord, hear our prayer.
(*The assembly repeats the response.*)

- 1, For our Holy Father, Pope N., our Bishop(s) N.,
and all who lead us in faith:
May the Holy Spirit strengthen them in their ministry. We pray.
2. For Christian people throughout the world:
May they be united in bearing witness
to the death and resurrection of the Lord. We pray.
3. For the leaders of government in every nation:
May they work for lasting peace in our world. We pray.
4. For those in our world who suffer because of war and violence,
and from poverty and disease:
May their suffering soon come to an end. We pray.
5. For all who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit today:
May we remain strong in our faith
and always call upon the Holy Spirit in our need. We pray.

Bishop: God our Father, you pour out the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to strengthen your people in every generation.
Hear our prayers today,
and make us faithful witnesses to the power of your love.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Form 2

Bishop: United in the Spirit of the Risen Lord,
we now offer our prayers of petition.

Reader: Our response to the petitions is: Lord, graciously hear us.
(*The assembly repeats the response.*)

1. For God's holy Church in every place:
May we bear faithful witness to Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.
We pray.
2. For all who serve in public office:
May they dedicate their lives to promoting human dignity
and defending the rights of the most needy. We pray.
3. For all who suffer because of war, injustice, poverty and disease:
May they place their trust in God and receive the help they need.
We pray.
4. For the newly-confirmed, and for their families and friends:
May all who have gathered for today's celebration
be renewed in faith, hope and love. We pray.
5. For our Parish Community:
May our good works shine forth and lead others to know God.
We pray.

Bishop: Ever-living God, source of every good gift,
we offer our prayers today with confident faith.
Grant us what we truly need and all that will give you glory.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

APPENDIX B

ENROLLMENT CELEBRATION

This celebration may take place during a Sunday Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word to which parents, sponsors and members of the community have been invited.

After the homily, the celebrant calls the candidates forward and addresses them in these or similar words.

Dear candidates for Confirmation,
you have already received the life of Christ in Baptism.
You have been called and welcomed
into the Catholic Christian community, the Church.
On the day of your Baptism your parents made promises for you;
they spoke in your name.

You have decided to present yourselves as candidates
for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

You have prepared for the celebration
of this sacrament of Christian initiation by prayer and study at school,
in your homes, and in our Parish community.
As a Parish community we acknowledge your desire
to complete your initiation into the life of the Church.
We invite you now to join us in the renewal of our Baptismal promises.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Celebrant: 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?

All: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Celebrant: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: Amen.

The celebrant concludes with the following prayer.

Almighty God,
you sent your Son to rescue us from the slavery of sin
and to give us the freedom only your sons and daughters enjoy.

We pray for these candidates for Confirmation.
Strengthen them during these final days of preparation
for the coming of the Holy Spirit,
so that they will grow to be mature Christians
in the fullness of Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The candidates may now be invited to come forward and sign their names in a book or on a scroll. They may also receive a cross as a sign of their desire to follow Christ faithfully.

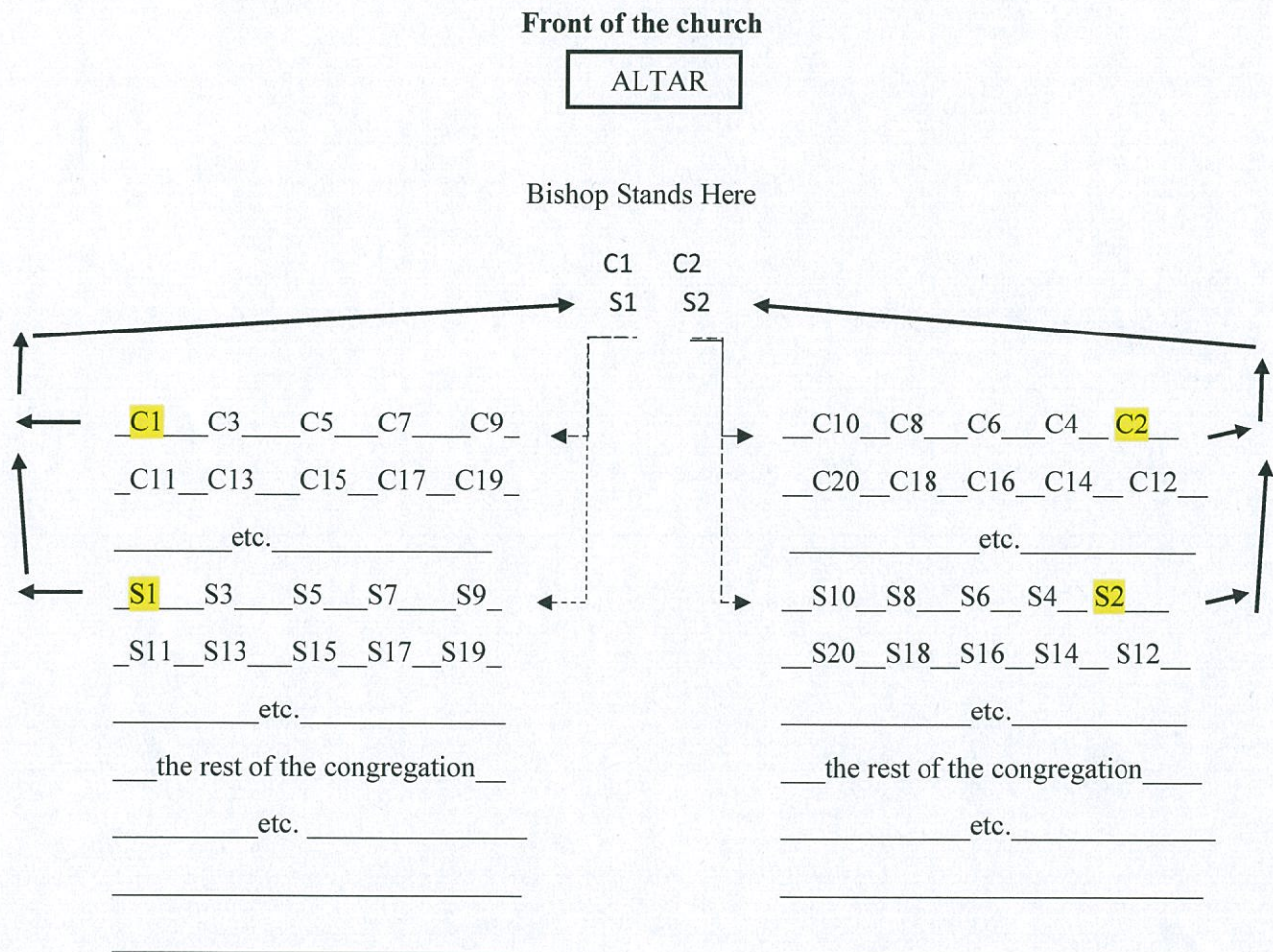
The celebration (outside Mass) may conclude with the Lord's Prayer, a blessing and concluding song.

CORRECTED – APPENDIX C

Seating for Confirmation – Option A

Candidates seated together with Sponsors seated behind

This chart shows the movement at the moment of the Rite of Confirmation.
Two candidates approach at the same time. As each is confirmed, they leave by the center aisle.
The approach is from side aisle, candidates and sponsors return and are seated immediately by the center aisle.



Back of the church

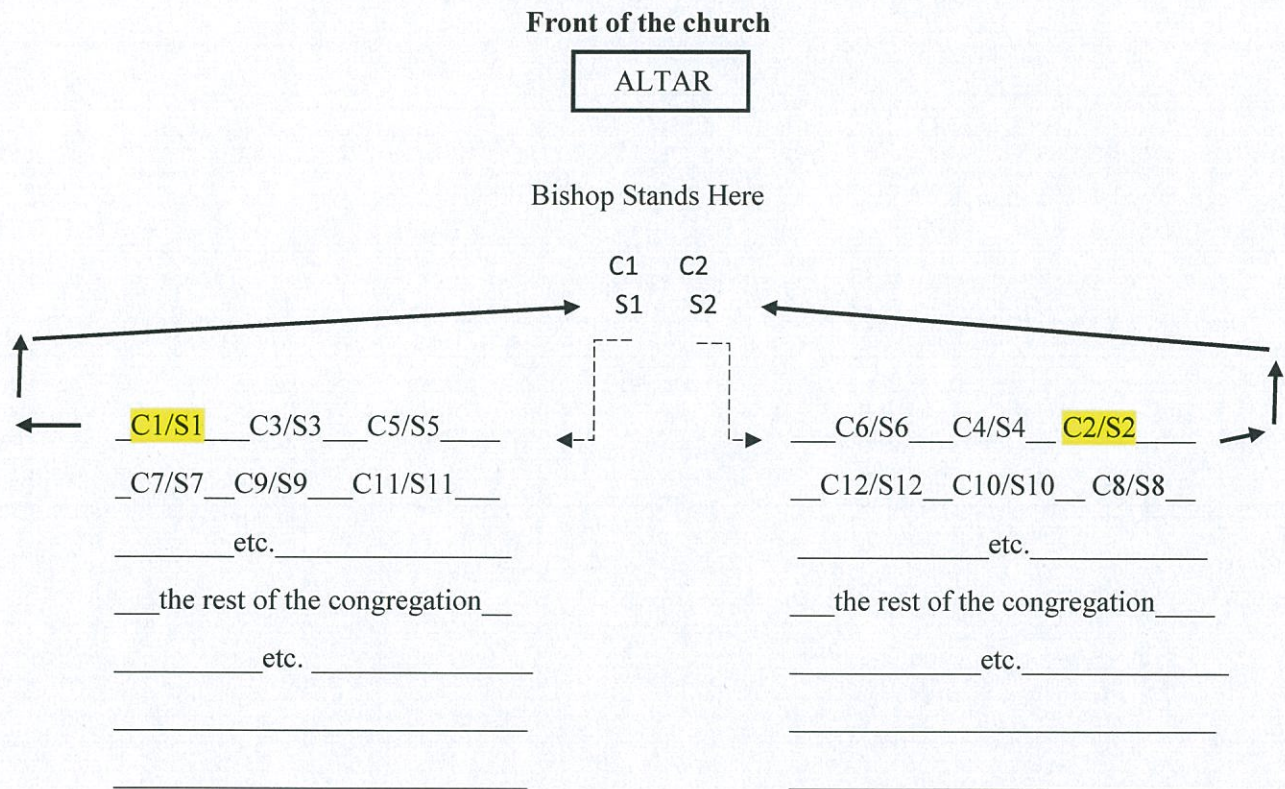
Entrance Procession starts from here at the beginning of the Mass.
At the beginning of Mass, Candidates and their sponsors are already seated
as is the congregation.

CORRECTED

Seating for Confirmation – Option B

Candidates and Sponsors are seated together

This chart shows the movement at the moment of the Rite of Confirmation.
Two candidates approach at the same time. As each is confirmed, they leave by the center aisle.
The approach is from side aisle, candidates and sponsors return and are seated immediately by the center aisle.



Back of the church

Entrance Procession starts from here at the beginning of the Mass.
At the beginning of Mass, Candidates and their sponsors are already seated
as is the congregation.

CONFIRMATION LITURGY PLANNING OUTLINE

This form should be completed and given to the Master of Ceremonies prior to the Confirmation Liturgy.

ENTRANCE RITES

Entrance Song _____

Welcome (optional) ☐ yes, by _____ ☐ No

Penitential Act ☐ recited ☐ sung Form _____

Glory to God ☐ omitted ☐ sung (Sunday or Solemnity)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Lectionary # _____ proclaimed by _____

Responsorial Psalm # _____ sung by _____

Second Reading Lectionary # _____ proclaimed by _____

Gospel Acclamation: ☐ sung ☐ omitted

Gospel Reading Lectionary # _____ proclaimed by _____

Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Candidates by Pastor or Delegate _____

Note: no music during anointing.

Universal Prayer – petitions announced by:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

>>> over

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

Optional Song

Eucharistic Acclamations sung

☐ Holy, Holy, Holy ☐ Mystery of Faith ☐ Doxology/Amen

Lamb of God ☐ sung ☐ recited

Communion Processional Song

DISMISSAL RITES

Expression of Thanks (optional, following the Prayer after Communion)

☐ Yes, by

 ☐ No

Recessional Song (optional)
