**Celebration of**

**The Call to Continuing Conversion**

*Found in RCIA #450-458*

**Liturgy of the Word**

Homily

*[After the readings, the celebrant gives the homily. This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the candidates, but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates in their final preparation leading to the celebration of confirmation and eucharist.]*

Presentation of the candidates for confirmation and the eucharist

***RCIA Director*** [addressing pastor]***:*** Reverend Father, I am pleased to present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation and those who are preparing to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They have found strength in God’s grace and support in our community’s prayers and example.

Now they ask that after this Lenten season, they be admitted to confirmation and the eucharist.

***Pastor:*** Those who desire to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, come forward, together with your sponsors.

[*RCIA Director calls candidates forward* ***by name*** *(this is not normally done at the Cathedral due to the size of the group). If they come from different parishes within a collaborative, they should be called in separate groups according to Parish, for example: “From St. Mary’s Parish…(names)...From St. Joseph’s Parish…(names)”.*]

Affirmation by the sponsors and the assembly

***Pastor:*** 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.

[addressing the sponsors]

Have they faithfully listened to the apostles’ instruction proclaimed by the Church?

* **They have.**

Have they come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism, in which they were joined to Christ and his church?

* **They have.**

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

* **They have.**

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

* **They have.**

And now I speak to you, my brothers and sisters in this assembly: Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these candidates and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

* **We are.**

Act of recognition

Dear Candidates, the Church recognizes your desire to be sealed with the gift of 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.

[*Music ministers may make a sung response, such as one verse of an appropriate hymn.*]

***Pastor continues*:** Sponsors, I now ask you to place your hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom you are receiving into your care. 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 the Easter mysteries.

General Intercessions

***Pastor*** [this text may be edited or improvised as necessary]***:*** My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord’s suffering, death, and resurrection. These candidates, whom we bring with us to the Easter sacraments, 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.

[These are found at RCIA 455 for the Call to Continuing Conversion. One or more of these intentions for the candidates may be added to the usual intercessions for the Church and the whole world. **Candidates and sponsors remain at front** during the General Intercessions, returning to seats only after the Pastor has prayed over them.]

***Deacon/Lector****:*

-That these candidates may come to a deeper appreciation of their baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection, let us pray to the Lord…

-That God bless those who have nurtured these candidates in faith, let us pray to the Lord…

-That these candidates may embrace the discipline of Lent as a means of purification and approach the sacrament of reconciliation with trust in God’s mercy, let us pray to the Lord…

-That they may open their hearts to the promptings of God’s Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord…

-That they may approach the table of Christ’s sacrifice with thanksgiving and praise, let us pray to the Lord…

-That our community, during this Lenten period, may grow in charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord…

**Prayer over the Candidates**

*After the intercessions, with HANDS OUTSTRETCHED,*

***Pastor continues*** [found at RCIA 456]

Lord God,

whose love brings us to life

and whose mercy gives us new birth,

look favorably upon these candidates,

and conform their lives

to the pattern of Christ’s suffering.

May he become their wealth and wisdom,

and may they know in their lives

the power flowing from his resurrection,

who is Lord for ever and ever.

AMEN.

***RCIA Director:*** Candidates are kindly invited to return to their seats, together with their sponsors.

[*An instrumental interlude may accompany the candidates returning to their seats, or music at the Offertory may begin.*]

[Liturgy of the Eucharist begins]