



Archdiocesan Directives For the Parish celebration of the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

Archdiocese of New York

General Directives:

1. The celebration of the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion is an optional rite that is celebrated for baptized candidates (adults and teenagers [14+]), who have participated in their parish's Catechumenate (RCIA) process and are ready either to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist or to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. **(See RCIA # 446)**
2. The parish celebration of the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion may be celebrated on a convenient day at the beginning of Lent **(See RCIA # 448)**.
3. This rite is to be celebrated at the parish church of the RCIA candidates.
4. This rite may be celebrated either within a parish Mass or within a parish Liturgy of the Word. **(See RCIA # 457)**.
5. The presiding celebrant for this rite is the pastor or parish priest delegated by the pastor. **(See RCIA # 448)**.

Outline of the Parish Celebration of the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion RCIA # 446 – 458

- Liturgy of the Word
- Homily
- Presentation of the Candidates
- Affirmation by the Sponsors and Assembly
- Act of Recognition
- General Intercessions
- Prayer over the Candidates
- Liturgy of the Eucharist (or the Dismissal of the Assembly)

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Liturgical Directives

1. Presentation of the Candidates:

After the Homily, the director / coordinator of the parish Catechumenate (RCIA) presents the candidates to the community.

(See RCIA # 451)

One by one, the candidates are called by name. Each candidate, accompanied by their sponsor, comes forward and stands before the presiding celebrant and the assembly.

2. Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly:

The presiding celebrant may choose one of two options in addressing the sponsors and the assembly.

(See RCIA # 452 A – used if presiding celebrant did take part in the discernment process)

(See RCIA # 452 B – used if presiding celebrant did **not** take part in the discernment process)

3. Act of Recognition:

The presiding celebrant first addresses the candidates and then addresses the sponsors.

(See RCIA # 454)

4. General Intercessions / Prayer of the Faithful:

The candidates and sponsors remain in front of the assembly as the intentions for the candidates, the Church, and the whole world are presented.

(See RCIA # 455)

5. Prayer over the Candidates:

The presiding celebrant offers the prayer over the candidates. **(See RCIA # 456)**

6. Conclusion of the Rite - two options:

Option A: If the Rite was celebrated within a Mass, the parish celebration of the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion concludes with the candidates and their sponsors returning to their seats. The Liturgy of the Eucharist with the preparation of the gifts then follows.

(See RCIA # 458)

Option B: If the Rite was celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word, the service ends with the dismissal of the candidates, their sponsors, and the entire assembly.

(See RCIA # 457)
