

Suggested outline for the
parish celebration of the
**Rite of Calling the Candidates
to Continuing Conversion**
at an appropriate time
in the beginning of Lent.

RCIA # 451 – 458



Archdiocese of New York

Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion

This Rite may be celebrated within a Mass or within a Liturgy of Word only.
The Rite begins after the homily. See RCIA # 451 – 458

The Presentation of the Candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist (RCIA # 451)

After the homily, a representative from the community (e.g. Coordinator of the Catechumenate / RCIA), presents the candidates to the priest and assembly, using the following words:

Parish Representative: Reverend Father, since Easter is drawing near, I am pleased to present to you the candidates who seek to complete their Christian initiation (and / or: the candidates 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.

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

One by one, the RCIA candidates are called by name. Each RCIA candidate, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the priest and assembly.

The Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly (RCIA # 452 – 453)

After the presentation of the candidates, the priest addresses the sponsors, using the following words:

Priest: 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.

Priest: Have they faithfully listened to the apostles' instruction proclaimed by the Church?

Sponsors: They have.

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

Sponsors: They have.

Priest: 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.

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

Sponsors: They have.

After the affirmation of the sponsors, the priest addresses the assembly, using the following words:

Priest: 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?

All: We are.

The Act of Recognition (**RCIA # 454**)

After the affirmation, the priest addresses the RCIA candidates, using the following words:

Priest: **My 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.

After the Act of Recognition, the priest addresses the sponsors, using the following words:

Priest: **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.**

He invites them to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care, or to make some other gesture to indicate the same intent.

The entire assembly may express its approval of the candidates with applause.

If the Rite of Calling the Candidates is celebrated within a Mass, the Profession of Faith (if appropriate) and the General Intercessions follow.

If the Rite of Calling the Candidates is celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word only, the General Intercessions follow.

The General Intercessions (**RCIA # 455**)

The general intercessions are presented as usual.
One or more of the intentions found in RCIA # 455 may be added.

The Prayer over the Candidates (RCIA # 456)

After the general intercessions, the priest, with hands outstretched over the candidates, says the following prayer:

Priest: **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.

All: **Amen.**

All the candidates and sponsors return to their seats.

A hymn may be sung while all return to their seats.

If the Rite of Calling the Candidates is celebrated within a Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as usual with the preparation of the gifts.

If the Rite of Calling the Candidates is celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word only, the Final Blessing and dismissal of the entire assembly follows.

Final Blessing and Dismissal of the Assembly (RCIA # 457)

The priest may use the following words:

Priest: **The Lord be with you.**

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: **May Almighty God bless you,**
 the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: **Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

An appropriate song may conclude the celebration.