

This Declaration of Intention is a model for optional use at the Parish Rite of Sending.

It can be signed during the Rite of Sending by baptized but un-catechized Catholics completing their initiation, and by those who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to indicate affiliation with the parish community; it is not presented to the Bishop at the Rite of Election.

Note that only the baptized candidates sign the declaration of intention at the parish. The catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election, therefore, they do not sign anything at the parish rite.

RITE OF SENDING CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

A) PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS (*The un-baptized*):

537. After the homily, a priest, deacon, catechist, or another person representing the community presents the catechumens in these or similar words:

Leader:

(Father N. and Parishioners of N. Parish), we rejoice today because those on the journey of the catechumenate are about to take a new step in faith; God has called them, and they have responded to this call. They will be sent (to the Cathedral) this afternoon where Bishop Persico or his delegate will celebrate with them the second step of the Journey- the Rite of Election.

Celebrant:

THOSE WHO ARE TO BE SENT TO THE RITE OF ELECTION IN CHRIST, COME FORWARD, TOGETHER WITH YOUR SPONSORS (AND GODPARENTS) AS YOUR NAMES ARE CALLED.

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the assembly.

(A Sign of Affirmation is given by the Sponsors and the Assembly)

Celebrant:

WE TURN TO YOU, SPONSORS, FOR TESTIMONY ABOUT THESE CATECHUMENS. TELL US OF THE CONVERSION YOU HAVE SEEN IN THEIR LIVES AND THE EXAMPLE OF FAITH THAT THEY HAVE LIVED.

Each sponsor in his/her own words then speaks to the assembly about how they have seen their candidate taking their formation and Catholic way of life seriously and how God has been present in their life.

Celebrant:

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE PRESENT WHO HAS TESTIMONY TO GIVE ON HIS/HER BEHALF?

(The Celebrant waits until there is no more testimony)

Celebrant:

MY DEAR CATECHUMENS, THIS COMMUNITY GLADLY RECOMMENDS YOU TO THE BISHOP, WHO IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, WILL CALL YOU TO THE SACRAMENTS AT EASTER. MAY GOD BRING TO COMPLETION THE GOOD WORK HE HAS BEGUN IN YOU.

No book is to be signed here. The Book of the Elect will be signed at the Rite of Election.

B) PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES (*Those previously baptized*)

540. A priest, deacon, catechist or person in charge of the candidates' catechetical formation, or a representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

Leader:

(Father N. and parishioners of N. Parish). we rejoice also today because some among us who have been previously baptized will be called by Bishop Persico or his delegate to begin their final period of preparation for the sacraments or confirmation and Eucharist, or for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example.

Celebrant:

SPONSORS PLEASE COME FORWARD WITH YOUR-CANDIDATE WHEN THEIR NAME IS CALLED AND SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF. TELL US HOW THEY HAVE LISTENED TO THE WORD OF CHRIST IN THIS COMMUNITY AND ENDEAVORED TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS MORE PERFECTLY.

One by one the names of the candidates are called as each stands before the assembly while the sponsor speaks for them in words of their own.

Celebrant:

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE PRESENT WHO HAS TESTIMONY TO GIVE ON HIS/HER BEHALF?

(The celebrant waits until there is no more testimony)

Celebrant:

AND NOW, MY DEAR FRIENDS, I ADDRESS YOU. YOUR OWN SPONSORS (AND THIS ENTIRE COMMUNITY) HAVE SPOKEN IN

YOUR FAVOR. THE CHURCH, IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, ACCEPTS THEIR TESTIMONY AND SENDS YOU TO THE BISHOP, WHO WILL EXHORT YOU TO LIVE IN DEEPER CONFORMITY TO THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

543. If it is decided in accord with no-546, that after the dismissal of the catechumens the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the Eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the catechumens and candidates..

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating Easter, the life-giving mystery of the Lord's dying and rising. As we journey toward the Easter sacraments, these catechumens and candidates will look to us for an example of Christian conversion and renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Assisting Minister:

That these catechumens and candidates may be freed from selfishness, and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord hear our prayer.

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That these catechumens and candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That our community, during this Lenten season, may grow in, charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

544. After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens and candidates, says the following prayer:

FATHER OF LOVE AND POWER, IT IS YOUR WILL TO ESTABLISH EVERYTHING IN CHRIST AND TO DRAW US INTO HIS ALL- EMBRACING LOVE.

GUIDE THESE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD: STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR VOCATION, BUILD THEM INTO THE KINGDOM OF YOUR SON, AND SEAL THEM WITH THE SPIRIT OF YOUR PROMISE.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. R. AMEN.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS

545. If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the catechumens are now sent forth by the celebrant to break open the Word of God. These or similar words may be used.

MY DEAR FRIENDS, THIS COMMUNITY NOW SENDS YOU FORTH TO REFLECT MORE DEEPLY UPON THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YOU HAVE SHARED WITH US TODAY.

BE ASSURED OF OUR LOVING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR YOU. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL SHARE FULLY IN THE LORD'S TABLE.

An appropriate song may accompany the leaving. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows in the usual manner.