



Diocese of
Green Bay

OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENT: MAY 1, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REVISED ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: PENTECOST 2016

WHAT IS THE *ORDER OF CONFIRMATION*?

In 2014, the bishops of the United States approved a revised English translation of the Confirmation ritual, and in March 2015 the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments granted their *recognitio* (approval) of the text. The USCCB then set an implementation date of Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016, for use of this revised edition, although it can be used any time before then.

WHAT HAS STAYED THE SAME?

The structure of the celebration has not changed and still follows the pattern of presenting the candidates, homily, renewal of baptismal promises, laying on of hands, and anointing with Sacred Chrism. The text still contains the rites in Mass and Outside of Mass, as well as celebration by an extraordinary minister (meaning not a bishop) and in danger of death. *This means that we will not have to re-learn the way the sacrament is celebrated.*

In addition, some of the key texts did not change in the revised translation. Probably the most noticeable (and important) will be the words spoken at the conferral of the Sacrament: "N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" (nos. 27, 44, 55-56).

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

While the structure remains the same, the words and language of the celebration will be different. Following the same practices used in the translations of the Roman Missal, the language is closer in style and content to the Latin original. In some places, we have already made

those changes (the response “And with your spirit” during the anointing with Chrism, for example). This ritual has fewer parts spoken by the assembly, therefore there will not be many changes for them.

Here are a few key examples of the changes:

- Title: from the *Rite of Confirmation* to the *Order of Confirmation*
- Naming of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: while the gifts have not changed, the names used now mirror the more traditional names found in the Catechism (see CCC 1831): **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.** (See Appendix of this document for full version the prayer at the Laying On of Hands.)
- An appendix which contains music for the chanting of the prayer accompanying the Laying On of Hands
- The new text is only available printed in a bilingual edition, with the Spanish and English on facing pages. *There have not been any changes to the Spanish edition.*

REGARDING OTHER RITUAL TEXTS

The prayer at the Laying On of Hands is also found in two other ritual texts. In these situations, it is permissible to use the translation (old translation) found in the ritual books until such time as these books are updated. In these locations, however, it would be both permissible and recommended to use the prayer’s newer translation. These situations include:

- Pastoral Care of the Sick: “Christian Initiation of the Dying,” at no. 290, and referenced at no. 246 in the “Continuous Rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum.”
- RCIA (US Edition): initiation of catechumens (no. 234), initiation of children of catechetical age (no. 325), reception of baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (no. 493, and referenced at no. 502), and the combined rite of initiation of catechumens and reception of baptized Christians (no. 590).

Immediately before the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, however, the prefatory exhortation has a text that varies from location to location in the RCIA, none of which are identical to the version in the Order of Confirmation. Therefore, those exhortations need to retain their current translations found in the RCIA.

Please see the Appendix of this document for the texts of the new translation of the Prayer for Laying On of Hands for use in these situations.

WHAT DO WE DO

- The bishop coming to your parish for Confirmation will begin using the revised text starting Pentecost 2016.
- For parishes needing a copy of the text for their use in confirmation preparation, the text is published by the USCCB and is available for purchase from their website:
<http://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm> (myUSCCB members receive a discounted rate).

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Office of Divine Worship with any questions (see contact information below).

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SAMPLE RITUAL TEXTS APPENDIX (ENGLISH & SPANISH)

The Laying On of Hands

24. Then the Bishop (while the Priests associated with him remain by his side) standing, facing the people, with hands joined, says:

**Dearly beloved,
let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a while.

25. Then the Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed (as do the Priests who are associated with him). But 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.

Imposición de las Manos

24. Luego, el obispo (teniendo a su lado a los presbíteros que van a ayudarle), de pie y con las manos juntas, exhorta al pueblo, diciendo:

**Oremos, hermanos, a Dios, Padre todopoderoso,
por estos hijos tuyos,
que renacieron ya a la vida eterna en el Bautismo,
para que envíe abundantemente sobre ellos
al Espíritu Santo,
a fin de que este mismo Espíritu
los fortalezca con la abundancia de sus dones,
los consagre con su unción spiritual
y haga de ellos imagen fiel de Jesucristo.**

Todos oran en silencio unos instantes.

25. Luego, el obispo (y los presbíteros que lo ayudan) impone las manos sobre todos los confirmados. El obispo, él solo, dice:

**Dios todopoderoso,
Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo,
que has hecho nacer de nuevo a estos hijos tuyos
por medio del agua y del Espíritu Santo,
librándolos del pecado,
escucha nuestra oración
y envía sobre ellos al Espíritu Santo Consolador:
espíritu de sabiduría y de inteligencia,
espíritu de consejo y de fortaleza,
espíritu de ciencia, de piedad
y de tu santo temor.
Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.**

R. Amén.

Confirmation to be Administered to a Sick Person in Danger of Death

54. In case of urgent necessity, the minister of Confirmation lays his hands over the sick person, as he says:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought this your servant to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing him (her) from sin:
send upon him (her), O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give him (her) the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill him (her) with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.**

R. Amen.

Confirmación de un Enfermo en Peligro de Muerte

54. En caso de urgente necesidad, el ministro de la Confirmación impone las manos sobre el enfermo, diciendo:

**Dios todopoderoso,
Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo,
que has hecho nacer de nuevo a este(a) hijo(a) tuyo(a)
por medio del agua y del Espíritu Santo,
librándolo(a) del pecado,
escucha nuestra oración
y envía sobre él (ella) al Espíritu Santo Consolador:
espíritu de sabiduría y de inteligencia,
espíritu de consejo y de fortaleza,
espíritu de ciencia, de piedad
y de tu santo temor.**

Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

R. Amén.

Ritual text selections used with permission per the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter, Volume LII, February 2016.

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