Homily

This should be suited to the actual situation and should address not just the catechumens and candidates but the entire community of the faithful, so that all will be encouraged to give good example and to accompany the candidates along the path of the paschal mystery. (536)

Rite of Sending Catechumens to Election

Presentation of the Catechumens

After the homily, the person in charge of the RCIA or another catechist presents the catechumens in these or similar words.

Father ________________, I present to you the catechumens who are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. They have found strength in God’s grace and support in our community’s prayer and example.

Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth to the Rite of Election celebrated this afternoon/evening/tomorrow afternoon/evening at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains with Archbishop Schnurr or at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton with Bishop Binzer.

The celebrant replies:
Celebrant/Deacon:

Those to be sent to the celebration of election in Christ, come forward, together with those who will be your godparents.

The catechumens are called each by name. They come forward and stand before the celebrant. Once all the names are called a refrain may be sung. (i.e. Out of Darkness)

Affirmation by the Godparents

Celebrant:

My dear friends, these catechumens who have been preparing for the Easter Sacraments hope that they will be found ready to participate in the Rite of Election and be chosen in Christ for the Easter Sacraments. It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the Arch(bishop).

And so, godparents, I turn to you for your testimony about these catechumens.

Celebrant:

Have they taken their formation in the Gospel and Catholic way of life seriously?

Godparents: They have.

Celebrant:

Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

Godparents: They have.
Celebrant:

Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the Arch(bishop) for the Rite of Election?

Godparents: We do.

Then the celebrant addresses the assembly:

Celebrant:

My brothers and sisters in this assembly:

Are you ready to support the testimony expressed about these catechumens and include them in your prayer and affection as we move toward Easter?

Assembly: We are.

Invitation and Enrollment

Then addressing the catechumens, the celebrant advises them of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intention.

Celebrant:

My dear catechumens, this community gladly recommends you to Archbishop Schnurr/Bishop Binzer, who, in the name of Christ, will call you to the Easter sacraments.

I invite you to now come forward and sign the Book of the Elect.

The catechumens, accompanied by their godparents, sign their names in the Book of the Elect. As the enrollment is taking place an appropriate song may be sung. Some possibilities include: Out of Darkness; Psalm 33: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own; Psalm 16.
Celebration of Sending Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop

Presentation of the Candidates

The person in charge of the RCIA or someone else presents the catechumens in these or similar words.

Father, I now present to you the candidates who are beginning their final preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist and/or those to received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth for recognition by our Arch(bishop).

The celebrant/deacon stands to call forward the candidates:

Celebrant/Deacon:

Those to be recognized, come forward, together with your sponsors.

The catechist then calls the names of each of the candidates. The candidates come forward to the celebrant with their sponsors. Once all the names have been called, a refrain may be sung (i.e. There is One Lord). At the conclusion of the refrain, the celebrant continues:

Affirmation By Sponsors and the Assembly

The celebrant address the assembly in these of similar words:

Celebrant:

My dear friends, these candidates, already one with us by reason of their baptism in Christ, have asked to be able to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire.
They have listened to the Word of Christ and endeavored to follow his commands more perfectly; they have shared the company of this community and joined with us in prayer.

This community supports these candidates in their desire. Therefore, I ask sponsors to state their opinion once again, so that all of us may hear:

*The celebrant addresses the sponsors for those seeking to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church:*

**Celebrant:**

Do you consider these candidates ready to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church?

*Sponsors:* We do.

*The celebrant addresses the sponsors for Catholics completing initiation through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist:*

**Celebrant:**

Do you consider these candidates ready to complete their initiation through the reception of the sacraments of confirmation and eucharist?

*Sponsors:* We do.

*Then the celebrant addresses the assembly:*

**Celebrant:**

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?
Assembly:  We are.

Celebrant:

My dear candidates, your sponsors and this entire community have spoken in your favor. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their testimony and sends you forth to Archbishop Schnurr/Bishop Binzer who will call you to continuing conversion in Christ Jesus.

In order to pray for and over the catechumens and the candidates, the catechumens should be called forward with their godparents (if they returned to their seats.)

Intercessions for the Catechumens and the Candidates

Celebrant:  My brothers and sisters, as we journey through these days of Lent to Easter, let us pray for these chosen men and women, and for ourselves, that we may be strengthened in to live our lives more fully conformed to Christ.

Deacon:  For these catechumens and candidates:  may they grow in prayer and holiness.  We pray to the Lord.

For their godparents and sponsors and all who walk with them.  We pray to the Lord.

For those who teach and form them in the faith.  We pray to the Lord.

Other intercessions may be added or substituted.
Prayer over the Catechumens and Candidates

*At the conclusion of the intercessions, with hands outstretched over the catechumens and the candidates, the celebrant prays:*

**Celebrant:** 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.

Dismissal of the Catechumens:

*The celebrant dismisses the catechumens in these or similar words:*

**Celebrant:** My dear children, you are about to set out with us  
on the road that leads to the glory of Easter.  
Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life.  
Until we meet again for the Scrutinies, walk  
always in his peace.

*The catechumens leave with a catechist to break open the Word.*