RITUAL MASS FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE OF THE CANDIDATES

ENTRANCE CHANT

When the candidates, their sponsors and parents, and the whole assembly of the faithful have gathered, the bishop goes to the sanctuary with the concelebrating priests, one or more deacons, and the ministers. Meanwhile all may sing a psalm or appropriate song.

Pastoral staff and miter are given to servers when Bishop enters the sanctuary. The bishop makes the usual reverence to the altar with the ministers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Bishop: **In the name of the Father and of the Son,**
✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
℟. Amen.

Bishop: **Peace be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Bishop: **Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,**
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you sent your Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, by Holy Baptism you have given us a share in eternal life:
Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you promised to be with your Church, until the day of glory: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: **May almighty God have mercy on us,**
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
℟. Amen.

Gloria in excelsis

Sung at all times except Sundays during Lent.

Collect

Bishop: Grant, we pray, almighty and merciful God,
that the Holy Spirit, coming near
and dwelling graciously within us,
may make of us a perfect temple of his glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

℟. Amen.

Or,

Bishop: Fulfill for us your gracious promise, O Lord, we pray
so that by his coming
the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world
to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

℟. Amen.

All are seated. Bishop receives the miter.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

After blessing the Deacon or Priest who will proclaim the Gospel, the Bishop removes the miter and stands. The Bishop receives the pastoral staff for the proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates

After the Gospel the Bishop lays aside the pastoral staff. Bishop Senior will be seated without miter. Bishop Gainer will receive the miter and be seated. The ministers and congregation, is seated. The pastor should begin the presentations in these or similar words. If a pastor is presiding, a Deacon, the Director of Religious Education or other suitable person makes the presentation of the Candidates.

> "Your Excellency, I/we present to you the young men and women for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Under the guidance of their parents and catechists and with the prayerful support and encouragement of the parish community they have been prepared to complete their Christian initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church, which was begun at their baptism. You are asked to impose hands upon them and anoint them with the Sacred Chrism, sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Candidates are to stand when their parish is named.

If more than one parish, the following text is used as each Pastor presents his candidates as a parish group. This takes place after the host pastor says the previous text.

"From the parish of *N.*, I present these candidates for confirmation."

The candidates stand as a group.

Candidates are seated.

HOMILY

If the Presider is one other than a bishop, it is fitting for him to mention in the homily that the Bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament and to explain the reason why even Priests receive the faculty to confirm from the law or by an indult.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

After the Homily, the Bishop receives the pastoral staff and proceeds immediately into the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Bishop Senior will be seated at the presidential chair for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Bishop Gainer will stand at the location of the conferral of Confirmation. The Master of Ceremonies asks the **candidates to stand.** *The Bishop questions them:*

Bishop:

Do you renounce Satan, and all his works
and all his empty promises?

The candidates respond together: **I do.**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Candidates: **I do.**

Do you believe in the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: **I do.**

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The whole congregation responds: **Amen**

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Then, removing the miter and handing off the pastoral staff, the Bishop is joined by any priests who will assist with the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. With hands joined, says:

Bishop: 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 short time.

The Bishop lays hands upon all the candidates (by extending his hands over them) and says:

Bishop: 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.
℟. Amen.

The Bishop receives the miter and pastoral staff. He is assisted by a deacon (or server) holding the chrismatorium to his right. Any priests with whom the Bishop has associated himself for the administration of Confirmation receive a vessel of sacred chrism from the Bishop.

The Anointing with Chrism

Confirmands should line up two by two in the center aisle for the reception of the anointing. However, they will approach the Bishop one at a time for the anointing with Sacred Chrism

The sponsor who presents the candidate places his or her right hand on the candidates shoulder. The sponsor announces the candidate's confirmation name to the Bishop in a loud, clear voice. During the anointing, a suitable hymn may be sung and the congregation should be seated. The music should not overpower the words and actions.

The Bishop dips his right thumb in the sacred chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

Bishop: **N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

The newly confirmed responds: *Amen.*

Bishop: **Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed responds: *And with your spirit.*

Assisted by servers, the Master of Ceremonies sees that the Bishop's hands are properly washed using lemon, bread, and a basin and ewer.

The Universal Prayer

The Bishop removes the miter, lays aside the pastoral staff, and standing introduces the General Intercessions.

Bishop: **My dear brothers and sisters,**
let us humbly pray to God the almighty Father
and be of one mind in our prayer,
just as faith, hope and charity,
which proceed from his Holy Spirit, are one.

Deacon or if one is not present another minister:

For these his servants,
whom the gift of the Holy Spirit has confirmed:
that, planted in faith and grounded in love,
they may bear witness to Christ the Lord by their way of life,
let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For their parents and sponsors:
that by word and example
they may continue to encourage
those whom they have sponsored in the faith
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For the holy Church of God,
together with Leo our Pope, Timothy our Bishop,
and all the Bishops:
that, gathered by the Holy Spirit,
the Church may grow and increase in unity of faith and love
until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For the whole world:
That all people, who have one Maker and Father,
may acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters,
without discrimination of race or nation,
and with sincere hearts seek the Kingdom of God,
which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For an increase in vocations
to the priesthood and consecrated life,
especially in the Diocese of Harrisburg:
may our young hear God's call.
May our families, parishes, and schools,
sow the seeds that will reap a harvest
of sacred workers for God's Church:
let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Bishop: **O God, who gave the Holy Spirit to your Apostles**
and willed that through them and their successors
the same Spirit be handed on to the rest of the faithful,
listen favorably to our prayer,
and grant that your divine grace,
which was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
may now spread through the hearts of those
who believe in you.
Through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.

The Bishop receives the miter and is seated while the Deacon or Master of Ceremonies prepares the altar.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Some of the newly confirmed may take part in the Presentation of the Gifts. If a collection is to be taken up, it is to be executed following the Presentation of the Gifts. Bishop Senior will receive the gifts with miter and crozier.

Mass continues in the usual way.

Prayer After Communion

Bishop: Accompany with your blessing
from this day forward, O Lord,
those who have been anointed with the Holy Spirit
and nourished by the Sacrament of your Son,
so that, with all trials overcome,
they may gladden your Church by their holiness
and, through their works and their charity,
foster her growth in the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.

The bishop receives the miter.

Announcements may be made by the bishop.

CONCLUDING RITE

THE SOLEMN BLESSING

The Bishop says,

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

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing

The Bishop with hands extended over the newly confirmed, says,

Bishop: **May God the Father almighty bless you,**
whom he has made his adopted sons and daughters
reborn from water and the Holy Spirit,
and may he keep you worthy of his fatherly love.

℟. Amen.

May his Only Begotten Son,
who promised that the Spirit of truth
would abide in his Church,
bless you and confirm you by his power
in the confession of the true faith.

℟. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who kindles the fire of charity in the hearts of disciples,
bless you and lead you blameless and gathered as one
into the joy of the Kingdom of God.

℟. Amen.

The bishop receives the crozier.

May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
✠ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

℟. Amen.

Instead of the preceding formula of blessing, the Prayer over the People may be used.

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

The Bishop says,

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

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing

The Bishop with hands extended over the people, says:

Bishop: **Confirm, O God,**
what you have brought about in us,
and preserve in the hearts of your faithful
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
may they never be ashamed
to confess Christ crucified before the world
and by devoted charity
may they ever fulfill his commands.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
℟. Amen.

The bishop receives the crozier and adds immediately:

May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
✠ the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
℟. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
(Alleluia, Alleluia - Octave Easter only)

All: Thanks be to God.
(Alleluia, Alleluia - Octave Easter only)

*A recessional chant should be sung as the bishop and other ministers leave the church **before** the newly confirmed. The bishop imparts his blessing as he leaves.*

Text is taken from the ©1975 English translation of the *Rite of Confirmation* and © 2010 English translation of *The Roman Missal*.
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