

**From:** Julie Greer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Julie Greer  
**Cc:** mlumpe@pcj.edu  
**Subject:** Update for Priests - May 20  
**Attachments:** Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation outside the Easter Vigil.pdf; Prayers for the Sacraments of Initiation.pdf

Brother Priests,

I hope you are faring well these rainy days. I heard that there were a number of flooding issues around the diocese. Let's hope that the Memorial Day weekend gives some more pleasant weather, even we are still locked in more or less.

I have three things for today:

First, regarding salaries and budget, because we truly live in uncertain financial times, both as individuals and as Church and after careful consideration, we have decided to defer compensation increases for Priests and the Diocesan staff until we know more about what the future will hold. We may reinstate increases later in the year, or if conditions do not materially improve we may leave the deferral in place for the entire fiscal year. This is similar to the decision that was made in 2009-2010, the last time that we experienced a major economic downturn, with the timing and extent of recovery unknown. Although this is a difficult decision, we believe it is both prudent and just, given that we do not know when our revenue will rebound, and the extreme unemployment and uncertainty that so many of the faithful are experiencing. My hope is that you will consider these actions in addressing compensation changes in your own Parish for your non-contract employees.

Second, the Office of Divine Worship has prepared some guidelines to assist you with the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. I attach those for your information. The guidelines reference the updated translation of the Rite of Confirmation. The USCCB Office of Communications, as the publisher, has given permission for us to reproduce those prayers in these extraordinary times. I attach a copy of those prayers as well.

Finally, and it is nice to look ahead, I mentioned before the idea of a Priest Retreat in Assisi next year. I am happy to attach a link <https://www.pilgrimages.com/brennan/> to the brochure for the retreat scheduled to take place during Easter Week 2021. On the one hand, it seems a little out of place these days to be talking about a retreat and pilgrimage in Italy of all places, but work was well underway before the pandemic occurred and we do need to look ahead hopefully putting this experience behind us. Clearly, we will not take nor place anyone in risk and so we will evaluate the trip along the way. But I want to give you the chance to consider the invitation and mark your calendar. We are not yet taking reservations but priests can put their name on the "wait list" to receive information as it becomes available. I thank Father Dan Dury for the work he has done to move this possibility forward.

As always, know how much I appreciate all your help and support of my prayers for you.

Bishop Brennan

## Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation outside the Easter Vigil

The following information has been put together to assist pastors and their staff with planning for the liturgies of initiation in your parishes. If your parish has been livestreaming Mass, you may want to consider livestreaming these liturgies. Do not forget to include copyright notations when livestreaming or on any printed materials you may be producing for these or any other liturgy at the parish.

### Initiation of the Elect

- Bishop Brennan has designated Pentecost, Trinity Sunday or the Feast of Corpus Christ for the celebration of the Rites of Initiation. A pastor may choose another date.
- Because the initiation of new members is a celebration of the Church and the parish community, it is suggested to celebrate them during one of the regularly scheduled weekend Masses. However, this may not be possible, especially if you have a large group. You may need to plan for multiple celebrations due to capacity issues and the necessary social distancing.
- If your parish has some lead-time for preparation prior to the sacraments, consider integrating some of the steps of the rite that have been missed (such as the presentation of the Lord's Prayer and Creed).
- If the initiation of the Elect takes place outside of Sunday, the Ritual Mass "Christian Initiation: For the Conferral of Baptism" may be used on days when Ritual Masses are permitted.
- The Lectionary provides readings for "Baptism apart from Easter Vigil" (nos. 751-755). Outside of the Easter Season, you are also permitted to draw from one of the Old Testament readings from Easter Vigil (see rubric at 751). However, these cannot be used these Sundays or on a Solemnity.
- Integrate the rites of initiation laid out in RCIA #218ff excluding those specifically related to the Easter Vigil (e.g. Do not lower the Paschal Candle into the baptismal water).
- It is highly suggested that parishes refrain from making the celebration into a second Easter Vigil. Honor the liturgical season and day which the Elect will be initiated on and use it as a focus of the Church's calendar unveiling the Mysteries of our Faith.
- When blessing the water, take one of the updated texts from the Order of Children's Baptism (formulas A, B, or C can be chosen).
- For the Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith, use the updated texts from the Roman Missal (See Easter Vigil, #55)

- Baptism may take place at the baptismal font or in the sanctuary. The elect may remain in their places until the completion of the Litany of the Saints, and may be called for baptism one-by-one to minimize the number of people processing at any given time. (See RCIA #219)
- Baptism by immersion is not possible, however the elect may stand in the immersion font and the blessed water poured over each person's head. It is important to ensure the water drains immediately. All water for baptism must be returned to the ground as soon as possible.
- If using a pedestal font remember that, the water cannot be reused, so you will not want to have the person stand with his/her head over the font while baptizing. If using water from the font, you will want to have a basin available to catch it as you do not want to mingle it with the water in the font that will then be used for baptizing others (if you have more than one). Again, ensure that it is returned to the ground as soon as possible.
- After the liturgy is complete, you will want to ensure that the fonts are empty and cleaned with an antimicrobial cleaning agent.
- You may omit the giving of the white garment, but if you chose to do it, you may wish to lie them out on a table and have the godparents handle them only.
- Take the rite for Confirmation from the new translation of the Order of Confirmation.
- You may wish for each confirmand and sponsor to approach the sanctuary steps individually for confirmation and return to their seats via another route to address concerns regarding social distancing.
- The celebrant may extend outstretched hands over the newly baptized during the laying on of hands in the Rite of Confirmation. The anointing with Chrism is to be done utilizing the thumb of the priest. You cannot wear gloves and you cannot use an "instrument" (e.g. a cotton swab). You may want to have the newly baptized wipe their foreheads with an alcohol-based sanitizer prior to confirming them to reduce the potential for any contaminants.
- Sponsors may extend outstretched hands over the confirmand's right shoulder instead of laying their hand on their shoulder.
- The Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Baptismal Water for the congregation does not take place as it would during the Easter Vigil (See #236). While the Sprinkling Rite may replace the Penitential Act on some Sundays (GIRM #51), due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is suggested that the blessing and sprinkling of water be omitted.
- First Eucharist should follow the same protocols your parish is using for all the faithful (no cup).

## Candidates for Reception into Full Communion

- Bishop Brennan has designated Pentecost, Trinity Sunday or the Feast of Corpus Christ for the celebration of the Rites of Initiation. A pastor may choose another date.
- Because the initiation of new members is a celebration of the Church and the parish community, it is suggested to celebrate them during one of the regularly scheduled weekend Masses. However, this may not be possible, especially if you have a large group. You may need to plan for multiple celebrations due to capacity issues and the necessary social distancing.
- If you have a small group, you may choose to initiate your elect and receive your candidates into full communion during the same liturgy. It is also permissible to divide the two groups into separate Masses.
- Use the rite found in RCIA #473ff
- The Lectionary advises that "readings, responsorial psalms, and verses before the Gospel may be taken in whole or in part from the Mass of the Day, or from the Mass for the Unity of Christians (nos. 867-871), or from the Mass for Christian Unity (nos. 751-755), or from the following" (cf. nos. 761-763). Readings cannot be changed on any of the above solemnities noted.
- Take the rite for Confirmation from the new translation of the Order of Confirmation.
- You may wish for each confirmand and sponsor to approach the sanctuary steps individually for confirmation and return to their seats via another route to address concerns regarding social distancing.
- The celebrant may extend outstretched hands over the newly baptized during the laying on of hands in the Rite of Confirmation. The anointing with Chrism is to be done utilizing the thumb of the priest. You cannot wear gloves and you cannot use an "instrument" (e.g. a cotton swab). You may want to have the newly baptized wipe their foreheads with an alcohol-based sanitizer prior to confirming them to reduce the potential for any contaminants.
- Sponsors may extend outstretched hands over the confirmand's right shoulder instead of laying their hand on their shoulder.
- The Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Baptismal Water for the congregation does not take place as it would during the Easter Vigil (See #236). While the Sprinkling Rite may replace the Penitential Act on some Sundays (GIRM #51), due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is suggested that the blessing and sprinkling of water be omitted.
- First Eucharist should follow the same protocols your parish is using for all the faithful (no cup).

### **Catholics Completing Initiation (Un-catechized Catholics)**

- Bishop Brennan has granted priests the faculty to confirm Catholics needing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (usually First Communion and Confirmation) until September 13, 2020.
- Sundays in Ordinary Time allow for the option to use the Confirmation Ritual Mass.
- Take the rite for Confirmation from the new translation of the Order of Confirmation.
- You may wish for each confirmand and sponsor to approach the sanctuary steps individually for confirmation and return to their seats via another route to address concerns regarding social distancing.
- The celebrant may extend outstretched hands over the newly baptized during the laying on of hands in the Rite of Confirmation. The anointing with Chrism is to be done utilizing the thumb of the priest. You cannot wear gloves and you cannot use an “instrument” (e.g. a cotton swab). You may want to have the newly baptized wipe their foreheads with an alcohol-based sanitizer prior to confirming them to reduce the potential for any contaminants.
- Sponsors may extend outstretched hands over the confirmand’s right shoulder instead of laying their hand on their shoulder.
- First Eucharist should follow the same protocols your parish is using for all the faithful (no cup).



Office for Divine Worship

Catholic Diocese of Columbus May 2020

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

23. After the Homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

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

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

Bishop:

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

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**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?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**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?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

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

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

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

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:

Amen.

For the formula **This is our faith**, it is permitted to substitute, if appropriate, some other formula or even some suitable chant, by which the community is able to express its faith.

## 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.**

And 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.**

Text with music, p. 93.



## THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

26. The sacred Chrism is brought by the Deacon to the Bishop. Each of those to be confirmed goes to the Bishop; or, if appropriate, the Bishop goes to each of those to be confirmed. The sponsor who presents the person to be confirmed places his (her) right hand on his (her) shoulder and says the name of the one to be confirmed to the Bishop; or the one to be confirmed alone says his (her) own name.

27. The Bishop dips the tip of the thumb of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb, makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says:

**N., BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The newly confirmed replies:

**Amen.**

The Bishop adds:

**Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed:

**And with your spirit.**

28. If Priests assist the Bishop in conferring the Sacrament, all the vessels of sacred Chrism are brought to the Bishop by the Deacon or by the ministers. As each of the Priests comes to the Bishop, he gives each a vessel of Chrism.

Those to be confirmed go to the Bishop or to the Priests; or, if appropriate, the Bishop and Priests go to those to be confirmed. The anointing is done as described above (no. 27).

29. During the anointing a suitable chant may be sung. After the anointing the Bishop washes his hands (as do the Priests).