



Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

Liturgy Note

Sacramental Formulae and Liturgical Texts

Regulation of the liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church, that is, on the Apostolic See and, accordingly as the law determines, on the Bishop.

–Sacrosanctum Concilium, 22 §1

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy states that “not even a priest may on his own add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy.”¹ In light of the recent, highly publicized story, it seems opportune to remind ministers of the Sacraments, and indeed of any liturgy, of the importance of using only the approved texts.

Baptism

Those elements fundamental to the matter and form of the Sacraments, especially Baptism, are to be adhered to without exception. It is especially important to note that “a person who has not received Baptism cannot be admitted validly to the other Sacraments.”²

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in *responsa ad dubia* from 2008 and 2020 approved by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, respectively, made clear that the formula for Baptism must remain, for the assurance of validity, unaltered.

The baptismal formula approved for use in the English language is found in the 2020 *The Order of Baptism of Children* (see no. 60), and in the 1988 *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* [RCIA] (see no. 226):

N., I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,

He immerses the person or pours water over him (her) a first time.

AND OF THE SON,

He immerses the person or pours water over him (her) a second time.

AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

He immerses the person or pours water over him (her) a third time.

¹ Second Vatican Council, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 22§3: AAS 56 (1964) 106.

² *Code of Canon Law*, no. 842 §1

The baptismal formula approved for use in the Spanish language is found in the 2020 *Ritual para el Bautismo de los Niños* (see no. 60), and in the 1991 *Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos* (see no. 226):

N., YO TE BAUTIZO EN EL NOMBRE DEL PADRE,

(derrama agua sobre la cabeza del niño o lo sumerge)

Y DEL HIJO,

(por segunda vez derrama agua sobre la cabeza del niño o lo sumerge)

Y DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO.

(por tercera vez derrama agua sobre la cabeza del niño o lo sumerge).

Confirmation

For Confirmation, the ordinary minister is the Bishop. (He does not require delegation to confirm.)

A Priest may not validly confirm without the faculty to do so given either by the law itself or by delegation from the Bishop. The faculty to confirm by the law itself is possessed by a Priest who baptizes a catechumen (age 7 or older) at the Easter Vigil (see RCIA no. 232) or admits one who is already baptized into full communion of the Catholic Church (see RCIA no. 481).

In the Archdiocese of Newark, delegation is required for pastors, parish administrators and chaplains to confirm adult (18+) baptized Catholics. **Delegation must be requested in writing from the Regional Bishop** [see *Pastor (or Administrator or Chaplain) Request for Delegation to Confirm Baptized Catholics (18+)*]. The delegation to confirm cannot be sub-delegated or transferred to another by the pastor/administrator/chaplain. The pastor/administrator/chaplain is to preside at the Mass during which the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated. Priests may not confirm baptized Catholics under age 18. Arrangements should be made with a Bishop to confirm them.

In cases of necessity (e.g. language of the Confirmation), where a Priest other than the pastor/administrator/chaplain needs to confirm, the request for delegation must be submitted by the pastor/administrator/chaplain.

The Confirmation formula approved for use in the English language is found in the 2016 *The Order of Confirmation* (see no. 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 Confirmation formula approved for use in the Spanish language is found in the 2016 *Ritual para la Confirmación* (see no. 27):

El obispo (y los presbíteros) moja el pulgar derecho en el Crisma y traza el signo de la cruz en la frente del confirmando, mientras dice:

N., RECIBE POR ESTA SEÑAL EL DON DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO.

During the pandemic, it is valid to anoint with a cotton ball or other instrument or by purifying the minister's thumb before each anointing.

All those who minister the sacraments or preside at liturgies are to remember that they are to follow the words and rubrics as prescribed in the liturgical books.

If anyone has questions regarding the valid celebration of any Sacrament, kindly consult the Worship Office.



*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

–Matthew 28:19-20