



# Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

## Liturgy Note

### Posture of Confirmation Candidates

*September 27, 2022*

*The Order of Confirmation, 23*, indicates that the candidates stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, but does not indicate a change in posture for the Laying On of Hands which follows. In some instances, candidates have been told to kneel during the Laying On of Hands. In accordance with the rubrics, candidates should remain standing.

For more information about the posture during Confirmation, please see the attached.



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### Posture during Confirmation

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**I.** After the Gospel, all are seated. The Bishop, wearing the miter, sits in his usual chair or in a special chair prepared for the occasion. The candidates are invited to stand and are presented to the Bishop. After the candidates are accepted by the Bishop, they are seated. Cf. *The Order of Confirmation*, 21; *Ceremonial of Bishops*, 461.

**II.** After the Homily those to be confirmed stand. The assembly remains seated. The Bishop, seated with miter and holding the pastoral staff, questions the candidates. Cf. *The Order of Confirmation*, 23; *Ceremonial of Bishops*, 463.

**III.** The assembly may stand before the Bishop gives his assent to the profession of faith (“This is our faith...”), so that all are standing when replying “Amen” or with another appropriate sung acclamation. The Bishop remains seated for the assembly’s assent.

**IV.** After the assent of the assembly the Bishop lays aside the miter and pastoral staff and stands for the Laying On of Hands. Cf. *The Order of Confirmation*, 24; *Ceremonial of Bishops*, 464.

**V.** The assembly may stand for the Laying On of Hands.

The relevant portion of *The Order of Confirmation* is attached, with indications as to the various postures.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

23. After the Homily the Bishop (seated and with the miter and pastoral staff) questions those to be confirmed, who stand.

[Deacon or pastor: Candidates for confirmation, please stand.]

[Bishop:

**And now, before you receive the Spirit,  
call to mind the faith which you professed in Baptism  
or which your parents and godparents professed with the Church.]**

Only the candidates respond to the following questions.

Bishop:

**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 assembly may stand.

[Deacon or pastor: Please stand.]

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.

Where it is customary, the candidates may be sprinkled with holy water while an appropriate song is sung. If the sprinkling rite has taken the place of the Penitential Act, the sprinkling is not repeated.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

24. Then the Bishop (putting aside the miter and pastoral staff) 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 remain standing and pray in silence for a while.

25. The Bishop lays hands over all those to be confirmed. 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.**

**℟. Amen.**

## 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 responds:

Amen.

The Bishop says:

**Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed responds:

And with your spirit.

28. Within the Archdiocese of Newark, the Bishop does not associate priests with himself in conferring the Sacrament.

29. During the anointing a suitable song may be sung. After the anointing the Bishop washes his hands.

30. The Universal Prayer follows.

All are seated at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer.