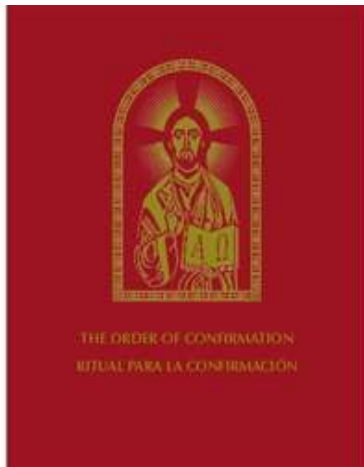




FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

REVISED ORDER OF CONFIRMATION NOTES



What is the *Order of Confirmation*

Following the call for the revision of the rite of Confirmation (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 71), the first (and only) Latin edition of the *Ordo Confirmationis* was issued in 1971. The first English edition (*Rite of Confirmation*) went into effect in 1977, and this is the text we still use today.

In 2014, the bishops of the United States approved a revised English translation of the Confirmation ritual, and in March 2015 the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments granted their *recognitio* of the text. The USCCB then set an implementation date of Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016, for use of this revised edition, although it can be used anytime before then.

What Has Stayed the Same

The first thing to note with the revised text is that the structure of the celebration has not changed. It still follows the pattern of presenting the candidates, homily, renewal of baptismal promises, laying on of hands, and anointing with Chrism. The text still contains the rites in Mass and out of Mass, as well as celebration by an extraordinary minister (meaning not a bishop) and in danger of death. This means that we will not have to re-learn the way the sacrament is celebrated.

In addition, some of the key texts did not change in the revised translation. Probably the most noticeable (and important) will be the words spoken at the conferral of the Sacrament: “**N**. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” (nos. 27, 44, 55-56).

What Has Changed

While the structure remains the same, the words and language of the celebration will be different. Following the same practices used in the translations of the *Roman Missal*, the language is closer in style and content to the Latin original. In some places, we have already made those changes (the response “And with your spirit” during the anointing with Chrism, for example). Since this is one of our shorter ritual texts, one that most people will celebrate infrequently, and one that has fewer parts spoken by the congregation, the changes with respect to the previous version will perhaps not seem as striking as the changes in the revised *Roman Missal* when it was introduced.

Here are a few key examples:

- ✘ Title—from the *Rite of Confirmation* to the *Order of Confirmation*
- ✘ Naming of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—while the gifts have not changed, the names used now mirror the more traditional names found in the *Catechism* (such as counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord—see CCC 1831). Those responsible for the catechetical formation of the candidates may want to take note of the terminology: (*continued on next page*)

<p>Current Text All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Revised Text 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 <u>counsel and fortitude</u>, the spirit of knowledge and <u>piety</u>; fill them with the spirit of the <u>fear of the Lord</u>. Through Christ our Lord.</p>
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✦ Prayer at the Conclusion of the Universal Prayer

<p>Current Text God our Father, you sent your Holy Spirit upon the apostles, and through them and their successors you give the Spirit to your people. May his work begun at Pentecost continue to grow in the hearts of all who believe. We ask this through Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Revised Text 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.</p>
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✦ An appendix which contains music for the chanting of the prayer accompanying the Laying on of Hands

Lastly, the new text is only available in a bilingual edition, with the Spanish and English on facing pages (similar to the 2006 bilingual edition). There have not been any changes to the Spanish edition.

What Do We Do

If you celebrate Confirmation in your parish, then you will need a copy of this text. As mentioned earlier, the mandatory usage date is May 15, but now that it has been published, it can be used anytime you are ready to do so. After May 15, however, the previous edition is no longer permitted.

For the bishop coming to your parish for Confirmation, he will begin using the revised text after Lent. So if you have a Confirmation scheduled for the Easter season, you will be among the first to celebrate with the text. An updated “Preparing to Celebrate the Rite of Confirmation” resource will be available in the next couple of weeks to aid you in preparing.

The text is published by the USCCB, and is available at their website:
<http://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm>

It is also available at The Cornerstone in Evansville.

Questions

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Office of Worship. Veni Sancte Spiritus!