The 2016 Edition of *The Order of Confirmation, Mass, and Other Liturgical Rituals*

A new bilingual edition of *The Order of Confirmation / Ritual para la Confirmación* is now available for the Dioceses of the United States of America. It has a mandatory use date of 15 May 2016. It is part of the ROMAN PONTIFICAL, that is, a ritual text ordinarily used by the Bishop. It is also to be used when the Bishop grants permission to a Priest to confirm baptized Catholics in special circumstances.

Every Priest does not need the entire ritual book. This booklet describes what is required, what is strongly encouraged, and what is optional when Confirmation is conferred by Priests in their ordinary pastoral ministry when they have the duty to confirm. The new translation for The Laying On of Hands, encouraged but not required for use in every celebration of Confirmation, is located on pages 4-5 below.

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**The Mass and Its Parts – Navigating the Roman Missal**

The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts of the readings, the prayers, and the liturgical chants correspond as aptly as possible to the needs, the preparation, and the culture of the participants.  

GIRM, no. 352.

♦ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois ♦ Office for Worship and the Catechumenate ♦  
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1. Principles for Making Changes in Other Ritual Books

Following the pattern established by the USCCB Committee for Divine Worship with the release of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* in 2011, the “general principle to be followed in an interim period such as this is that an approved liturgical book may continue to used, even if some parts of its text have been retranslated in another book, until such time as a new version of the book is approved” [see Guidance from the CDW on pages 6-7 below].

Thus, commonly used responses from Mass, “And with your spirit”, the Penitential Act, the Creed, and the texts for dismissal follow the patterns and language we currently use during Mass. However, invitations and prayers used only by the Priest, Deacon, or Leader may be changed but there is no obligation to do so.

Although not obligatory, it is strongly desired and encouraged that the new text for *The Laying On of Hands* also be used in the following places:

- *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* [RCIA]: initiation of catechumens (no. 234), initiation of children of catechetical age (no. 325), reception of baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (no. 493 and referenced at no. 502), and the combined rite of initiation of catechumens and reception of baptized Christians (no. 590).
- When the Bishop gives permission for a Priest in individual cases to use RCIA Part II, Chapter 2, Christian Initiation of Adults in Exceptional Circumstances (no. 365).
- RCIA Part II, Chapter 3, Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death (no. 390).
- *Pastoral Care of the Sick* [PCS], in the ritual “Christian Initiation of the Dying” (no. 290) and “Continuous Rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum” (no. 246). The new translation for this prayer is found on pages 4-5 below. **Note:** “Immediately before the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, however, the prefatory exhortation has a text that varies from location to location in the RCIA [and PCS], none of which are identical to the version in the *Order of Confirmation*. Therefore, those exhortations need to retain their current translations found in the RCIA” and PCS. USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, February 2016.

2. Published edition of

*The Order of Confirmation / Ritual para la Confirmación*

The USCCB is the sole publisher of this ritual book.

[http://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm](http://store.usccb.org/The-Order-of-Confirmation-p/7-521.htm)

**The Order of Confirmation (English & Spanish)**
- Pages: 95
- Size: 8 ½” x 11”
- List Price: $49.95
- Product Code: 7-521
3. Template for Making a Parish Worship Aid

Here is a short form template for a parish or institution to use in making a worship aid for assembly use when the Bishop comes to celebrate Confirmation.

The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass

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Celebración de la Confirmación dentro de la Misa

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES ♦ ♦ ♦ RITOS INICIALES

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ♦ ♦ ♦ LITURGIA DE LA PALABRA

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION
♦ ♦ ♦ CELEBRACIÓN DE LA CONFIRMACIÓN

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES ♦ PRESENTACIÓN DE LOS CANDIDATOS

HOMILY OR ADDRESS ♦ HOMILÍA O ALOCUCIÓN

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES ♦ RENOVACIÓN DE LAS PROMESAS BAUTISMALES

LAYING ON OF HANDS ♦ IMPOSICIÓN DE LAS MANOS

ANointING with CHRISM ♦ UNCIÓN CON EL SANTO CRISMA

Universal Prayer ♦ Oración de los fieles

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
♦ ♦ ♦ LITURGIA EUCARÍSTICA

THE CONCLUDING RITES ♦ ♦ ♦ RITO DE CONCLUSIÓN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ♦ AGRADECIMIENTOS


4. Ritual Texts for Use in Other Ritual Books

Imposición de las Manos

Ritual para la Confirmación, no. 25. Luego, el obispo (y los presbíteros que lo ayudan) impone las manos sobre todos los confirmandos. El obispo, él solo, dice:

Dios todopoderoso,
Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo,
que has hecho nacer de nuevo a estos hijos tuyos por medio del agua y del Espíritu Santo,
librándolos del pecado,
escucha nuestra oración
y envía sobre ellos al Espíritu Santo Consolador:
espíritu de sabiduría y de inteligencia,
espíritu de consejo y de fortaleza,
espíritu de ciencia, de piedad
y de tu santo temor.
Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

R. Amén.
Order of Confirmation, no. 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.
5. Guidance from the Committee on Divine Worship


Use of Texts from the Order of Confirmation in Other Liturgical Rituals

Following the recent publication of the new English translation of the Order of Confirmation, the Secretariat of Divine Worship has received a number of questions regarding the celebration of Confirmation in the context of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and other liturgical rituals.

In a similar way, the Committee on Divine Worship addressed in the November-December 2011 Newsletter the question of ways the implementation of the then-newly released Roman Missal, Third Edition might affect the use of other liturgical books that had not yet been retranslated. Many texts of the Sacred Liturgy are found in multiple books, and that could put liturgical ministers in an awkward situation during this period in which the rites are gradually being retranslated, since in a number of instances there are now two distinct translations of certain texts that exist side-by-side in approved liturgical books.

The general principle to be followed in an interim period such as this is that an approved liturgical book may continue to be used, even if some parts of its text have been retranslated in another book, until such time as a new version of the book is approved. In certain situations, however, particularly when it helps to avoid confusion, it is advisable to substitute the newer translation of the text for the older version, particularly since the newer English translation would have been rendered in the light of the 2001 instruction Liturgiam authenticam and would therefore provide a text that is closer to the original Latin.

After consulting with the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Committee thus counseled in 2011 that certain substitutions in the older liturgical books would be highly advisable, in light of the familiarity that the faithful would have with the texts of the Missal. The most commonly used of these would be the response “And with your spirit” and the texts of dismissal. These substitutions would be easy to make in most circumstances, without even the need to put notes or reminders into the older books.

The Committee further suggested that certain other substitutions could also be made, but noted that these adaptations were optional and not required. For example, there are many instances in which the concluding prayer at various hours of the Liturgy of the Hours coincides with the Collect at that day’s Mass. A person who recites the Liturgy of the Hours privately or who leads this prayer in common is free to use the new translation of the prayer if so desired, but would equally be free to continue using the older version printed in the breviary.
A new context for this issue presents itself with the publication of the new English translation of the *Order of Confirmation*, that is, the administration of Confirmation in other pastoral circumstances. Both the RCIA and *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum* include rituals for the administration of Confirmation in circumstances that would often involve the ministry of a priest, rather than a bishop, in the context of parish or other celebrations.

Aside from the response “And with your spirit” following the anointing with Chrism, the text from the *Order of Confirmation* that most lends itself to substitution into the older books is the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, whose new translation includes the traditional names for the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

> 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.

This prayer is found in four locations in the U.S. edition of the RCIA: initiation of catechumens (no. 234), initiation of children of catechetical age (no. 325), reception of baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (no. 493, and referenced at no. 502), and the combined rite of initiation of catechumens and reception of baptized Christians (no. 590). The prayer at the Laying On of Hands is likewise found in *Pastoral Care of the Sick* in the ritual for “Christian Initiation of the Dying,” at no. 290, and is also referenced at no. 246 in the “Continuous Rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum.”

In all of these locations, it would not only be permissible to use the prayer’s newer translation, but even encouraged in light of its coming into regular use by bishops at their own celebrations of Confirmation. Immediately before the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, however, the prefatory exhortation has a text that varies from location to location in the RCIA, none of which are identical to the version in the *Order of Confirmation*. Therefore, those exhortations need to retain their current translations found in the RCIA.

As long as these kinds of substitutions are being done on an individual basis by those using the ritual books, there are no major copyright issues involved. Diocesan offices of worship would be free to distribute the newer translations of specific texts, such as the prayer at the Laying On of Hands at Confirmation, to its priests and deacons. In the case of printed publications that are being sold, permission would first have to be secured from the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, and copyright fees might be required.

6. **Assistance from the Diocesan Office**

Parishes and institutions will find it helpful to review *The Order of Confirmation*, Chapter I – The Order for the Conferral of Confirmation within Mass (OC, nos. 20-33) for sacramental training and formation. Purchase the ritual text from the USCCB or request Chapter I in PDF from the diocese.

For assistance, contact the Office for Divine Worship and the Catechumenate at (217) 698-8500, worship@dio.org or the Episcopal Master of Ceremonies, Fr. Daren Zehnle at (217) 698-8500, dzehnle@dio.org.