

## **Additional Ways to Celebrate Confirmation, Reception and Re-Affirmation**

No matter where the Rite of Confirmation is scheduled (whether in the home parish or another church), the entire congregation should be made aware of the service and invited to take part. It is a celebration of our communal life together. How is the whole community involved? If their service is held on a Saturday at another location, on the Sunday following the confirmation service, the local parish should recognize and welcome the newly Confirmed, Received or Re-Affirmed in the context of the main liturgy of the day. Again, our communal life is being celebrated. It is a day to celebrate the vocation to that which they have been called, that of being a Christian.

### *Ideas:*

- Ask children in the Church School to make cards and bookmarks to give to those being recognized Ask parents and sponsors to write or share a remembrance of their own faith journey
- Consider the parts of worship where the candidates can share their gifts of leadership as liturgists (lectors, ushers, ministers of communion, oblationers), musicians, or artists
- Have each confirmand write and/or share a personal statement of faith. These can be created in forms other than the written word (piece of music, banner, collage, drawing) and displayed or shared in the service bulletin.
- In addition to being affirmed for their time of study and growth in faith, individuals can be commissioned for particular ways they want to share their time and talents with the congregation. This can also be printed in the bulletin.
- Gifts of a Bible, *The Book of Common Prayer*, or a cross can be blessed and given
- Plan a reception or luncheon following worship

### *Prayers of the People*

*Deacon or other leader*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God in every place, and especially for this parish and diocese, and for <names>, our bishops, let us prayer to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those (or "N.N.") who were confirmed at (*name of parish*) yesterday; For those (or "N.N.") who were received into the communion of this Church [and] (those who have renewed their vows), and for those who mentored them, let us prayer to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Adapted from the 2006 Confirmation Guidelines adopted by the Diocese of Connecticut (during the tenure of The Rt. Rev. Andrew Smith, Diocesan). Copyright ©2020 *The Confirmation Collaborative* c/o [sharonepearson@gmail.com](mailto:sharonepearson@gmail.com)

For the welfare of the world, for this nation and its leaders, for this city (*town, village, \_\_\_\_\_*), and for every city and community, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the sick, the suffering, the hungry, and the lonely, and those in any need or trouble, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of [*the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, (blessed N.) and*] all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.  
*To you, O Lord our God.*

*Silence.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, such as Collect 6 or 16 in Lesser Feasts and Fasts (pp. 60 or 65) or the following Doxology:*

For you anoint our head with oil and spread a table before us, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, now and forever. *Amen.*

[Adapted from *Leaving Home with Faith* by Elizabeth Caldwell (The Pilgrim Press, 2002) and a form suggested for use at Baptism or Confirmation in *The Ceremonies of the Eucharist* by Howard E. Galley (Cowley, 1989)]