

¶ Call and Celebration of the Decision to be Baptized or Confirmed or to Affirm Baptismal Faith

The minister may introduce the Call in these or similar words

Today it is our joy and privilege to welcome N and N,
disciples with us on the Way of Christ.
They are among us as a sign of the journey of faith to which we
are all called.

*The minister invites the disciples to stand before the people with their
sponsors. The disciples are presented to the congregation by their
sponsors, and some words of personal commendation may be said.
The minister says*

We thank God for his presence in your lives
and for the grace that has brought you here today.

What is it that you seek?

The disciples may reply in their own words, or may say

To follow the Way of Christ.

*The minister may ask the sponsors to confirm the candidates'
commitment to worship, prayer and the fellowship of the Church,
and their readiness to study and to understand their story as part
of the people of God. The names of those who seek initiation may
be added to a book dedicated for that purpose.*

*The minister then addresses each candidate separately or the group
together*

Will you receive the sign of the cross
as a mark of Christ's love for you
as you explore his Way?

I will.

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each
candidate. The sponsors may be invited to sign the candidates with
the cross. The minister says*

Receive the sign of the cross.
May Christ our Redeemer,
who claims you for his own,
deliver you from evil and guide you on the way.

Where a candidate is already baptized, the minister uses these words

Receive the sign of the cross.
May Christ our Redeemer,
who in your baptism claimed you for his own,
protect and guide you.

A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

*The candidates remain in front of the congregation for the prayers of
intercession. This or other similar forms may be used.*

*N and N, who are our brothers and sisters, have already travelled a
long road. We rejoice with them in the gentle guidance of God. Let
us pray that they may press onwards, until they come to share fully in
the way of Christ.*

May God the Father reveal his Christ to *them* more and more
with every passing day. Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

May *they* undertake with generous *hearts* and *souls* whatever God
may ask of *them*.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

May *they* have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the
way.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

May *their* hearts and ours become more responsive to the needs
of others.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

In due time may *they* come to *baptism / confirmation / to reaffirm
their baptismal faith*, and receive the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**