

Presentations of the Creed and the Our Father (To the Elect and possibly some Candidates)

If the Scrutinies and the Penitential Rite are opportunities for the purification of the elect and candidates, the Presentation of the Creed and the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer are for them to receive two of the Treasures of the Church – the Nicene or Apostles Creed, the summary of the Faith; and the prayer Jesus himself taught his apostles when they asked him to “teach us to pray.” (Lk 11.1) These “ancient texts...have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church's faith and prayer.” (RCIA 147)

The presentations are celebrated during the week [outside a Sunday], either within a Mass or within a Liturgy of the Word during an RCIA session (RCIA 157, 178).

The Presentation of the Creed is celebrated during the third week of Lent. The Presentation of the Lord's Prayer is celebrated during the fifth week of Lent. Nevertheless, since several other rites will be taking place during this period, the RCIA Rites book indicates the Presentations could be included instead with the Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday (RCIA 149) or even during an extended Catechumenate period (RCIA 79, 104-105, 147).

Those candidates who have had little to no Christian formation or experience of praying the Creed or the Lord's Prayer may be included in the celebrations of these Rites along with the elect (National Statutes for the Catechumenate #31).

Nevertheless, care must be taken that the candidates and the elect are clearly distinct from one another and that any wording appropriate for those who are preparing for Baptism is not used for those who are already baptized.

If, on the other hand, Candidates have lived strong Christian lives, then including them might be seen as denigrating the life of faith they have already led. The National Statutes make it clear that these presentations would not be appropriate for these particular candidates (NS #31).

Pastoral judgment is necessary to determine whether a particular candidate can appropriately participate in one or both of these Rites.

Adapted from ACM Leader's Manual, © 2006, Used with Permission by the Archdiocese of San Antonio, TX