

A CELEBRATION OF MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD (4.14)

Following the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, the Celebrities together with their parents and sponsors move out into the center aisle in alphabetical order.

THE PRESENTATION

Sponsors/Parents (for each young person individually)

We/I present (*N.N. first name & middle name*) who this day moves from childhood to manhood/womanhood.

Celebrant

Dear People of God: The transformation from childhood to womanhood or manhood marks one of God's great gifts. Today we celebrate the gift of womanhood and manhood with these young people.

(*N.*) and (*N.*): by the grace of God you have lived through the pains and joys of childhood, and have grown strong. Now, as men and women, it is given to you to share God's power of creation. Human beings, because they are made in God's image, are the only creatures on earth who can choose how to use their creative power — not only to create new life, but also to shape the world according to God's purpose. God calls us to use this gift to build and not to destroy. Are you aware of God's gift to you and the responsibility to use it wisely?

Celebrity (answers individually)

I am.

THE PSALM

Celebrant

Let us join with these young people in reciting Psalm 139. (*The congregation repeats the **antiphon.***)

Celebrities

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost part of the sea, Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

Antiphon: Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Antiphon Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there were none of them.

Antiphon Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrities

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Antiphon Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

THE PRAYER FOR THE PARENTS

Celebrant

When Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus and found him in the temple, talking with the elders, they realized that he was a child no longer. So *these parents* stand watching their *sons* and *daughters* grow beyond childhood. Let us pray for them.

O God, bless *(N.)*, *(N.)*, *(N.)*, and *(N.)*, *the parents* of these young people. Rejoice with them as their *sons* and *daughters* become men and women. Strengthen them that they may support their *sons* and *daughters* as they begin the journey toward adulthood. Uphold them by your Spirit, that they may comfort them although they can neither walk their roads for them nor shield them from pain. Carry them all safely through this journey, so that one day they may stand together as adults and friends, a joy and a comfort to each other all the days of their lives. *Amen.*

THE CHARGE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Celebrant

Dear fellow Rite-13 participants: As they move beyond the circle of their families, they will need loyal friends. Will you stand by them, knowing that there may be times when your support means more than any other?

Young People

We will, with God's help.

THE CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

The People stand from this point to the conclusion of the blessings. The Celebrant continues

As the living Body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of God which spans the generations, share your knowledge and experience with these young people as they become young women and men?

People

We will, with God's help.

Will you guide, guard and sustain them as they grow into the full stature of Christ?

People

We will, with God's help.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant

(to the Celebrities) You have been equipped by Almighty God with both the imagination of childhood and the strength and creative power of womanhood and manhood; now you must journey forth to gain the skills you will need to assume full responsibility as an adult.

Each celebrity comes forward with their parents/sponsors and stands. The parents come forward and lay their hands on the Celebrities' shoulders. The Celebrant lays hands on each one individually and says

(N.), may Almighty God fill you with courage, wisdom and joy. May Jesus Christ, your strong companion and never-failing friend, make you strong in faith and defend you on every side. May the Holy Spirit guide you in truth and peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, rest upon you this day and for evermore.

The People respond AMEN.

The Peace is then exchanged and the service continues with the Offertory