



Memorandum

To: All Priests of the Diocese, Pastoral Assistants, and RCIA Directors
From: Ann Pinckney
Date: 8 December 2017
Subject: 2018 Diocesan Rite of Election at the Cathedral and St. Joseph, Macon

On the first weekend of Lent, Bishop Hartmayer will celebrate the Diocesan Rite of Election: Saturday, **February 17 at 11:00 am** at **St. Joseph, Macon**, and Sunday, **February 18 at 3:30 pm** at the **Cathedral of St. John Baptist, Savannah**. These celebrations will take place within the context of the “Liturgy of the Word.” St. Joseph, Macon, was chosen as a site to make the Rite more accessible to those in the western part of our diocese.

We have adapted the “Celebration of the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates Who Are Preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist or Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church” found in your copy of the “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.” In other words, not only may you send “true Catechumens” (unbaptized persons), but you may also send Candidates who are already baptized and are preparing for full Communion in the Roman Catholic Church. *It will be very helpful if you or your Director of RCIA would review the Rite with the Catechumens and Candidates so they feel prepared to fully participate in the celebration.*

Each Catechumen and Candidate should have their sponsor accompany them. You may invite all who have had a part in their formation, particularly those on the RCIA team. Family members and all other interested individuals in the parish should be encouraged to make a pilgrimage with them for the solemn occasion.

Those parishes who will be sending Catechumens and Candidates may want to celebrate the optional “Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop” in the parish before coming to the Rite of Election.

Seats will be reserved for parish groupings of Catechumens/Candidates, sponsors and priests, with seating for family and friends at the side pews at the Cathedral. **The Catechumens will be coming forward to sign a Diocesan Book of Elect.** You do not need to bring your parish book.

Please complete the attached forms listing all your Catechumens and Candidates and their sponsors so that we may print their names in the program. Please note that there are two lists: one for those who **will be** attending the Rite of Election (for the purpose of seating assignments) and the other for those who **will not** attend (so that we will have accurate records to send to Rome). **It is necessary that the forms be returned to the Department of Faith Formation regardless of your attendance. Forms must be returned no later than January 15, 2018.** *We are again requesting that you fill out the forms on the computer and e-mail them back to us (see “Downloading and Emailing” attachment), however, legibly printed forms will also be accepted.* Further instructions will be sent once we receive your forms.

Thank you for your cooperation.

