

February 2018

Dear RCIA Coordinator:

I am very happy that the Catechumens and Candidates from your parish plan to attend the Rite of Election. This is a special day in their lives. I am sure they appreciate all the support and encouragement we can give as they prepare for the next phase of their formation in the RCIA. I would appreciate it if you, or someone on your RCIA team, would share the following information with everyone involved with the Rite:

### **RITE OF ELECTION DIRECTIONS**

1. Ask the people to go directly to the pews assigned to your parish. If you are planning to meet your group, please do so outside in front of the Church instead of inside (unless it is raining). We need to keep an atmosphere of prayer in the church.
2. Catechumens/Candidates/Godparents/Sponsors need to be with your parish group. Guests and family please sit in the side pews if attending the Rite at the Cathedral. We will be highlighting the Catechumens as the Rite indicates. We will have *one Diocesan Book of the Elect* that the Catechumens will come forward to sign. (*You may want to use the "Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop" found in the Rites book, Appendix I, 2, if you want to display your parish Book of Elect at home.*) One Representative from each parish will meet in the back of the Church 20 minutes before the ceremony for final logistical instructions.
3. At the **Presentation of the Catechumens**, the parish representatives will come forward to call out the names of your Catechumens. The representative will state the name of your parish and city and begin calling the names of your Catechumens (*for example: Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah: Mary Smith, John Doe...*). When finished, go back to your seat. The Catechumens will be asked to stand when the parish representative calls their name with their Godparent. They will remain standing until all the Catechumens are called. They will be asked to respond to the questions posed by the Bishop during the **Affirmation by the Godparents and the Assembly**. Then, at the **Invitation and Enrollment of Names**, the Catechumens, row by row, will come forward and sign their name in the Diocesan Book of Elect. There will be more than one station with individual pages from the book for signing so as not to take too long. The Godparents are invited to accompany their Catechumen and after the Catechumen has signed, they will enter the sanctuary area together. The Bishop will then proceed with the **Act of Admission or Election**, after which everyone will go back to their places. **(If your parish does not have Catechumens, you will not come forward or enter the sanctuary at this time.)**
4. During the **Celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion**, the parish representatives will come forward again to call out the names of your Candidates. Remain standing until all the Candidates are called. The Candidates and their Sponsors will be **Presented** (by standing when the Candidate's name is called) and **Affirmed** (by answering questions of the Bishop). After the **Act of Recognition**, Candidates and Sponsors will be seated. The Candidates will not come forward. We will continue with the Rite, Intercession, etc.
5. All are invited to greet the Bishop at the reception following the ceremony.

I hope that these few simple directions will assist in helping people feel comfortable as they prepare for the Rite of Election. Please call our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Pinckney, Diocesan Director  
Office of Evangelization