

Rite of Election (& Call to Continuing Conversion)

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

2021

Due to the ongoing public health concern, the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion will take place in parishes on the First Sunday of Lent, Feb 21, 2021, NOT in large archdiocesan celebrations.

Archbishop Schnurr delegates the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese to celebrate this liturgy in their parishes, with preference being that the pastor celebrate the rite if possible (cf. *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* #12, 34, 121).

This celebration may take one of these forms:

1. **Rite of Election ONLY:** if the only adults and children of catechetical age preparing for initiation at the Easter Vigil this year are unbaptized (catechumens), use the rite found in *RCIA* #129ff. This rite may also be used if you choose NOT to include baptized adults and older children in a call to continuing conversion (which is optional).
2. **Rite of Election AND Call to Continuing Conversion:** this rite may be used if you have adults and older children preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist AND adults and older children who are baptized but uncatechized (candidates) preparing to complete their initiation at the Easter Vigil this year. Use the rite found in *RCIA* #547ff. You may also choose to celebrate only the Rite of Election with the unbaptized (form 1 above).
3. **Call to Continuing Conversion ONLY:** if the only adults and older children preparing for reception into full communion or the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion are baptized but uncatechized use the rite found in *RCIA* #450ff. This rite is completely optional.

Forms 1 & 2 should **normally take place at a parish Mass for the First Sunday of Lent, with the pastor presiding.**

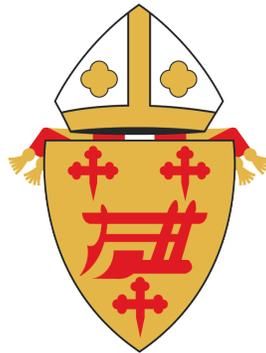
Form 3 (optional) may take place on Lent I, or some other time at "the beginning of Lent". (cf. *RCIA* #448)

Specific ritual notes and guidance:

- Obviously, since the Rite of Election replaces it, the Rite of Sending is not to be celebrated this year.
- If for some good reason, the Rite of Election cannot take place on the First Sunday of Lent, the Ritual Mass for Christian Initiation: For the Election or Enrollment of Names may be used. (cf. *RCIA* #128) But normally, the Mass for the First Sunday of Lent is used.
- If you incorporate some general intercessions into the Intercessions for the Elect (and Candidates), you may omit the profession of faith and Universal Prayer. (cf. *RCIA* #137, 546)

- Note that only catechumens (who will become “elect”) should sign the Book of the Elect. Through this, and other distinctions given in the combined rite itself (*RCIA* #547ff), “care must be taken to maintain the distinction between the catechumens and the baptized candidates.” (*RCIA* #549)
- Normally, baptized adults and older children who are catechized are not received into the Church nor celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Communion at the Easter Vigil. The Call to Continuing Conversion is not normally celebrated with them. In fact, the National Statutes for the Catechumenate #34 envisions that baptized persons only complete their initiation at the Easter Vigil if there are ALSO catechumens to be baptized, and the rite itself specifies that such baptized persons should be uncatechized.
- The rites can be found in the ritual book *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. While we cannot provide a downloadable ritual script due to copyright concerns, we can help you order the ritual book at a significant discount if you do not already have it. If you need assistance finding the ritual text in Spanish, please contact the ODWS.

If you have specific questions, or need further guidance, please contact the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments, worship@catholicaoc.org, 513.263.6609.



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