

RITE OF ELECTION 2012

Your Parish Name _____ City _____

Site you will attend--Check one _____ Erie _____ Clearfield

Total number of *all persons* attending from your parish: _____

Person submitting this form _____
Phone _____

CATECHUMENS: All those who are un-baptized.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

Indicate any special needs for seating disabled persons. _____

Use back of form for additional names. Please return by February 17, 2012, to Sr. Nancy Fischer SSJ /
St. Mark Center / P.O. Box 10397 / Erie, PA 16514-0397. (FAX 814-824-1239)

RITE OF ELECTION 2012

Your Parish _____ City _____

Site you will attend- check one _____ Erie _____ Clearfield

Total number of *all persons* attending from your parish: _____

Person submitting this form _____ Phone _____

CANDIDATES:

All those baptized Catholic completing initiation with Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

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RITE OF ELECTION 2012

Your Parish _____ City _____

Site You will attend –Check one _____ Erie _____ Clearfield

Total number of *all persons* attending from your parish: _____

CANDIDATES:

*All those **baptized non-Catholic** seeking the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.*

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

NAME OF SPONSOR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / ZIP

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Dear Pastors,

January 19, 2012

The 2012 diocesan celebrations of the *Rite of Election* and *Call to Continuing Conversion* will take place on the First Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2012 at 3:00 PM at:

- St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, Bishop Donald Trautman, presiding
- St. Francis Church, Clearfield, Msgr. Smith, Vicar General, presiding

In each location, the rituals will be incorporated into a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. A Liturgy of the Eucharistic will **not** be celebrated in either location. Please remember that only those who will in fact be initiated or received into the Church at Easter, 2012 are to celebrate the Rite of Election or Call to Continuing Conversion.

PASTORS PLEASE NOTE: These instructions are NOT being sent to RCIA/Catechumenate Directors. PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE APPROPRIATE PERSON RECEIVES THEM IMMEDIATELY. Completed forms are due back by *February 17, 2012*.

Please find enclosed with this letter:

1. A detailed description of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion rituals with important information for you and for the participants.
2. A copy of the *Rite of Sending*, for your convenience, which may be used in your parish prior to the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion.
3. A declaration of intention (optional) for use with the candidates in the parish *Rite of Sending*.
4. Registration sheets for your participants:
 - a. one for catechumens, the un-baptized
 - b. one for baptized Catholics who are candidates for Confirmation
 - c. one for baptized Christians who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.

For seating purposes, please include *the total number who will attend* from your parish in the space provided on the registration sheets.

5. A request for delegation form from Fr. Christopher Singer, Chancellor. This form, on blue paper, asks the Bishop's permission for the pastor to confirm previously baptized Catholics. Please return this form by February 17, 2012 either with your Rite of Election forms or directly to Fr. Singer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Godparents and sponsors—Those who will act as godparents to the catechumens and sponsors to the candidates *should be present* at the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion. Other members of your team, family members, and parishioners are most welcome to attend.

Name tags—Please provide name tags for your candidates and catechumens.

Presenter— Select ahead of time the person from your parish team who will read the names of the candidates and catechumens as they are presented.

The Book of the Elect—Remember that only the catechumens sign the Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election. The names of all other participants (candidates) will be read aloud as they are greeted individually by the Bishop or the Vicar General. Also note that the signing of the book is omitted in the Rite of Sending at the individual parishes, since it will be done at the Rite of Election. The optional Declaration of Intention may be used in the parish.

When you arrive at the Church:

- a) Please identify your group to the people helping with seating. They will help your parish find their places in the Church.
- b) Have the presenter who will read the names of your catechumens and candidates make themselves known to the coordinator in the front of the Church.
- c) Check the list for accuracy and assist with making any changes.
- d) Ask the presenter, who will read the names, to sit in the front of the Church.

We look forward to being with you for this important celebration with our newest sisters and brothers. The Lenten journey of our candidates is the model for all of us who will renew our baptismal commitment at Easter. If we can be of assistance do not hesitate to contact us.

N.B. The above information is also available at the Diocesan RCIA web site:
<http://www.eriecnd.org/liturgy3.asp>

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Clark
Office of Worship
Coordinator for the Eastern Vicariate

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ
Coordinator Christian Initiation
Coordinator for St. Peter Cathedral

This Declaration of Intention is a model for optional use at the Parish Rite of Sending.

It can be signed during the Rite of Sending by baptized but un-catechized Catholics completing their initiation, and by those who are seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to indicate affiliation with the parish community; it is not presented to the Bishop at the Rite of Election.

Note that only the baptized candidates sign the declaration of intention at the parish. The catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election, therefore they do not sign anything at the parish rite.

**RITE OF SENDING
CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION**

A) PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS (*The un-baptized*):

537. After the homily, a priest, deacon, catechist, or another person representing the community presents the catechumens in these or similar words:

Leader:

(Father N. and Parishioners of N. Parish), we rejoice today because those on the journey of the catechumenate are about to take a new step in faith; God has called them, and they have responded to this call. They will be sent (to the Cathedral) this afternoon (or whatever particular time) where Bishop Trautman or his delegate will celebrate with them the second step of the Journey- the Rite of Election.

Celebrant:

THOSE WHO ARE TO BE SENT TO THE RITE OF ELECTION IN CHRIST, COME FORWARD, TOGETHER WITH YOUR SPONSORS (AND GODPARENTS) AS YOUR NAMES ARE CALLED.

One by one, the catechumens are called by name. Each catechumen, accompanied by a sponsor, comes forward and stands before the assembly.

(A Sign of Affirmation is given by the Sponsors and the Assembly)

Celebrant:

WE TURN TO YOU, SPONSORS, FOR TESTIMONY ABOUT THESE CATECHUMENS. TELL US OF THE CONVERSION YOU HAVE SEEN IN THEIR LIVES AND THE EXAMPLE OF FAITH THAT THEY HAVE LIVED.

Each sponsor in his/her own words then speaks to the assembly about how they have seen their candidate taking their formation and Catholic way of life seriously and how God has been present in their life.

Celebrant:

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE PRESENT WHO HAS TESTIMONY TO GIVE ON HIS/HER BEHALF?

(The Celebrant waits until there is no more testimony)

Celebrant:

MY DEAR CATECHUMENS, THIS COMMUNITY GLADLY

RECOMMENDS YOU TO THE BISHOP, WHO IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, WILL CALL YOU TO THE SACRAMENTS AT EASTER. MAY GOD BRING TO COMPLETION THE GOOD WORK HE HAS BEGUN IN YOU.

No book is to be signed here. The Book of the Elect will be signed at the Rite of Election.

B) PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES *(Those previously baptized)*

540. A priest, deacon, catechist or person in charge of the candidates' catechetical formation, or a representative of the community, presents the candidates, using the following or similar words.

Leader:

(Father N. and parishioners of N. Parish). we rejoice also today because some among us who have been previously baptized will be called by Bishop Trautman or his delegate to begin their final period of preparation for the sacraments or confirmation and Eucharist, or for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example.

Celebrant:

SPONSORS PLEASE COME FORWARD WITH YOUR-CANDIDATE WHEN THEIR NAME IS CALLED AND SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF. TELL US HOW THEY HAVE LISTENED TO THE WORD OF CHRIST IN THIS COMMUNITY AND ENDEAVORED TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS MORE PERFECTLY.

One by one the names of the candidates are called as each stands before the assembly while the sponsor speaks for them in words of their own.

Celebrant:

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE PRESENT WHO HAS TESTIMONY TO GIVE ON HIS/HER BEHALF?

(The celebrant waits until there is no more testimony)

Celebrant:

AND NOW, MY DEAR FRIENDS, I ADDRESS YOU. YOUR OWN SPONSORS (AND THIS ENTIRE COMMUNITY) HAVE

SPOKEN IN YOUR FAVOR. THE CHURCH, IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, ACCEPTS THEIR TESTIMONY AND SENDS YOU TO THE BISHOP, WHO WILL EXHORT YOU TO LIVE IN DEEPER CONFORMITY TO THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

543. If it is decided in accord with no-546, that after the dismissal of the catechumens the usual general intercessions of the Mass are to be omitted and that the liturgy of the eucharist is to begin immediately, intentions for the Church and the whole world are to be added to the following intentions for the catechumens and candidates..

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating Easter, the life-giving mystery of the Lord's dying and rising. As we journey toward the Easter sacraments, these catechumens and candidates will look to us for an example of Christian conversion and renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed and together come to share the joys of Easter.

Assisting Minister:

That these catechumens and candidates may be freed from selfishness, and learn to put others first, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord hear our prayer.

That their godparents and sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That their teachers may always convey to them the beauty of God's Word, let, us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That these catechumens and candidates may share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That our community, during this Lenten season, may grow in, charity and be constant in prayer, let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OVER THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

544. After the intercessions, the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the catechumens and candidates, says the following prayer:

FATHER OF LOVE AND POWER, IT IS YOUR WILL TO ESTABLISH EVERYTHING IN CHRIST AND TO DRAW US INTO HIS ALL- EMBRACING LOVE.

GUIDE THESE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD: STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR VOCATION, BUILD THEM INTO THE KINGDOM OF YOUR SON, AND SEAL THEM WITH THE SPIRIT OF YOUR PROMISE.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. R. AMEN.

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS

545. If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, the catechumens are now sent forth by the celebrant to break open the Word of God. These or similar words may be used.

MY DEAR FRIENDS, THIS COMMUNITY NOW SENDS YOU FORTH TO REFLECT MORE DEEPLY UPON THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YOU HAVE SHARED WITH US TODAY.

BE ASSURED OF OUR LOVING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR YOU. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL SHARE FULLY IN THE LORD'S TABLE.

An appropriate song may accompany the leaving. The Liturgy of the Eucharist follows in the usual manner.

**Request for the Faculty to Confirm
In Accord with Canons 883 and 884 of the Code of Canon Law**

Please return this form by March 1, 2012

Date of

Request: _____

Parish: _____

Address: _____

Date of Celebration: _____

Dear Bishop:

In accord with the norms set forth in Canons 882 and 884 of the Code of Canon Law, Paragraph 28 of the National Statutes for the Catechumenate, and Erie Diocesan Norms,

I, the Rev. _____ do hereby request the faculty to confirm the following **adult** candidates **who have already been baptized** in the Catholic Church (please print names):

Name of Candidate Date of Birth Date of Baptism Date of First Communion

Sincerely, _____

***Please contact the Chancery (814.824.1135) with any questions or concerns. Thank you.**

