



January 14, 2022

Dear Pastors,

The Diocese of Erie will soon celebrate the *Rite of Election* and *Call to Continuing Conversion*. We will offer the rituals twice in the diocese at the request of Bishop Lawrence T. Persico, as he desires to be present as the presider for both events:

- **March 6, 2022 at St. Luke, Erie, 3:00 PM**
- **March 13, 2022 at St. Catherine of Siena, DuBois, 3:00 PM**

In each location, the rituals will be incorporated into a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. A Liturgy of the Eucharist will not be celebrated in either location. Please remember that catechumens must participate to be fully initiated at Easter Vigil. Pastors of catechumens who are unable to be present should contact Bishop Persico's office by February 18 to discuss options for them continuing the Initiation Process. Only those who will be initiated or received into the Church at Easter, 2022 are to celebrate the *Rite of Election* or *Call to Continuing Conversion*.

Bishop Persico again requests all participating priests and deacons to vest and join him in the opening procession. Seating in or near the sanctuary will be designated for those who vest.

**A special note, re: COVID-19:** We appreciate your flexibility with the continued unknowns. We ask for the email addresses of your RCIA program contact on the form, so we can communicate quickly and directly about any adaptations we may have to make if guidelines change (i.e. limited seating capacity for guests). **As of now, our safety efforts include: 1. Not offering a reception after the rite; 2. Strongly encouraging all present to wear masks; 3. Adapting the handshake in the ritual.** If someone in your program has concerns about their ability to participate in the *Rite of Election* (for COVID-19 reasons or otherwise) the pastor is expected to contact Bishop Persico by February 18. Please state the nature of the concern and summary of why you are requesting accommodations.

**New forms process this year:** We have moved forms to a digital format to streamline the reporting process. ***Please have one person from your parish complete your forms by February 18.*** If you need technical assistance, call Faye Froess at 814.824.1210.

**Please complete each of the 2 online forms by Friday, February 18:**

1. [Parish Info](#)
  - Parish information & RCIA coordinator contact information
  - RSVP & estimated attendance for your parish's participation
2. [Registration form for your participants](#)
  - Complete this simple form once for each of your candidates and catechumens.

**Request for Delegation Form:** [Download and print this from our website](#) if you have baptized Catholics who are candidates for Confirmation. This form from Fr. Singer, Chancellor, requests the Bishop's permission for the pastor to confirm previously baptized Catholics. The pastor must sign, print and mail this form to the Chancery by February 18.

The links to all forms are also available on our [diocesan RCIA website](#).

**How to prepare:**

**1. Choose a Presenter:**

Choose someone from your team to read the names of your catechumens and candidates as they are presented. The presenter checks in at the front of the church.

**2. Invite Godparents, Sponsors, Families and Friends:**

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. We ask for your flexibility if pandemic capacity restrictions require us to limit the number of guests. If so, we will communicate any changes to RCIA program leaders via email.

**3. Prepare other rituals for your parish: For your convenience, our website includes the *Rite of Sending*, as well as the optional declaration of intention.**

Note that the catechumens' signing of the book is omitted in the *Rite of Sending* at parishes, since they sign the Book of the Elect during the *Rite of Election*. The Bishop will individually greet the candidates during the *Call to Continuing Conversion*, as they do not sign the book during the rite.

**When you arrive on March 6 or March 13:**

**1. Bring name tags for your candidates and catechumens.**

**2. Please identify your group to the people helping with seating.** They will assist your parish in finding their place.

**3. Have the presenter report to the coordinator in the front of the church.** The presenter will check the list for accuracy and be shown to reserved seating.

Your work with RCIA is part of our shared work of lifelong faith formation, and we are grateful for your effort to help people come into relationship with Christ and His Church. The Lenten journey of our candidates is the model for all of us who will renew our baptismal commitment at Easter. Thank you for your ministry.

Sincerely,



Jessie Hubert

Director of Faith Formation for Parish Support



Fr. Matthew Kujawinski

Administrator, Office of Worship



Maripat Grant

Coordinator, Office of Worship